

I would like to add that as soon as the report is received from the Chief Technical Examiner, I will be placing a further statement on the Table of the House.

Shri Radha Raman (Chandni Chowk): We have been finding one after the other report after report that structures—whether they are put up by the private firms or the Central PWD—for certain purposes are not serving the purposes for which they are meant. One after the other, we are receiving such reports. I want to know if the Government is taking some action in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents and avoid such losses.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): The hon. Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, when he made a statement, had not referred to one item, that is, who carried out the soil test before the building was put up. That is a very important thing. Even for a small building to be constructed, it is very important that the soil test is carried out. In his long statement, there is no reference at all to this aspect. In the detailed enquiry which is going to be made, let him take this aspect also into consideration.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Who was the private contractor?

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Before I call upon the hon. Minister to reply, and make a statement, all hon. Members who want to make any suggestions should rise in their seats. Many hon. Members did so. Shri Sadhan Gupta did not then rise. I am sorry I cannot allow him to speak now.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: My point arises out of the replies given.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. Then it will become endless.

Two points have been raised. The first is, how far the sinking of the floor is likely to affect the quality of the milk. The hon. Deputy Minister has said that it is only a storage tank independent of the chilling process.

That is only a preliminary step; later it is pasteurised here and this machine is all right. From that point of view, there is no danger to the quality of the milk.

Regarding the other point, two persons are interested in that. The CPWD has undertaken the construction and it has entrusted it to a contractor. At this stage, we are not able to say who is responsible for it. A committee has been appointed and all the suggestions that have been made regarding the soil testing and so on will be considered there by that committee. So far as the seriousness is concerned, of course Rs. 3 lakhs is a big sum. It is not Rs. 3 crores. The main plant seems to be here. The damage is to one of the 32 plants strewn over various places. Whatever it may be, not a pie shall be wasted. I am sure, the hon. Minister will see that a proper investigation is made and the statement will be placed on the Table of the House, when it comes before him. I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion.

LABOUR TROUBLE IN BHILAI STEEL PLANT

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion on the following subject:

"The situation arising out of the recourse to firing, teargas and cane-charges on workers of the Bhilai Steel Plant, where there has been labour trouble recently over the workers' demand for better safety measures lack of which, it is alleged, has resulted in a number of accidents and where on this account production work has been hampered."

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): Reports of a disquieting nature have appeared in the Press . . .

Mr. Speaker: In which paper?

Shri Vajpayee: In all the papers. It has been reported that due to some labour trouble, production work has been partially affected. The local Press has reported that some damage has been caused to the plant itself.

[Shri Vajpayee]

We would like to be assured by the hon. Minister that adequate measures have been adopted to ensure the safety of the workers and that on no account will production be allowed to suffer.

Shri Rajendra Singh (Chapra) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Am I to call upon every signatory? Has he got anything special to say?

Shri Rajendra Singh: Yes, Sir. As is apparent from the newspaper reports, the General Secretary of the Bhilai Steel Kamgar Union had to go on fast simply because he wanted the authorities to provide better safety measures, in view of the fact that since the plant was erected, a large number of accidents used to occur. Not only that. The Government was callous about it and even where lives were lost, no compensation was paid or even if paid, was very much delayed. So, the General Secretary had to go on fast.

Mr. Speaker: When did he start the fast?

Shri Rajendra Singh: On the 10th February. Adequate measures should have been taken to see that accidents do not occur. One engineer who was riding a car was so rash that he knocked down a worker. This created a panic all-round inside the plant with the result that people began to run helter-skelter. News went round that the authorities are going to fire on the workers. But the workers began to get out from the plant. When the people were flying here and there helter-skelter something might have happened; nobody can say. But there has been no injury to the plant from the side of the workers. Nothing has been done so far from the side of the workers to injure the plant or to burn any jeep

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow more. I will hear the hon. Minister.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): The most important fact

is not what actually happened there. Of course, we all regret a strike had to be there in such an important plant where production is the most important thing. This demand has been there for a very long time. The most important thing is that in the plant there is no machinery either to consider or negotiate, so far as the demands placed by the workers are concerned, whether they are right or wrong. In such a vital sector of our industry, if Government do not find it proper to have a negotiating machinery to listen to the grievances of the workers, this kind of thing may continue. So, the most important thing is, what steps Government are going to take in the steel plants and in the public sector in general to see that the workers' grievances will be looked after and production will not suffer. That is the major thing to be considered by the House. Otherwise, this sort of thing will continue and production will suffer.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I am sorry to say that since day before yesterday, the 17th February there has been considerable law and order trouble at the Bhilai Steel Plant. The Ministry has been in touch with the General Manager and I have myself spoken to the Chief Minister, Dr. Katju.

According to the information received so far, the General Secretary of the Bhilai Steel Kamgar Sangh, Shri Deo Saran Dube, went on hunger strike near the coke oven area on the 10th February in protest against possible retrenchment of construction workers and the alleged inadequacy of amenities like housing, water-supply and of safety measures. A few construction workers stopped work on the 12th and 13th, but they were persuaded to resume work. On the 16th again a few hundred construction workers in the open-hearth and railway divisions left work, but most of them were persuaded to return.

The situation, however, took a more serious turn on the 17th morning when a crowd of construction workers surrounded a construction engineer and demanded promotion, better wages and so on. When he made efforts to persuade them to disperse, he was manhandled and his jeep as well as another jeep was set on fire. Thereafter, crowds of construction workers began to collect in other areas also. The District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police arrived with a police party. Nevertheless, the crowd continued to throw stones and various groups of construction workers continued to move within the plant site trying to intimidate the operation staff and turn them away from the work. The coke pusher and the locomotives carrying iron and slag from the blast furnaces were surrounded. The pushing of coke and the tapping of the two blast furnaces had therefore to be suspended. On the evening of the 17th, the Commissioner of Raipur Division arrived on the spot and immediately arranged for police reinforcements.

On the 18th morning, the situation became more serious. Between 10-30 a.m. and noon, large crowds of people collected in the power house area, cut the pipe carrying liquid fuel and took possession of the ash pump house. Work in the power house, including the blower and the boiler had, therefore, to be suspended. The District Magistrate then promulgated an order under section 144, Cr. P.C., prohibiting the gathering of more than five persons in the steel plant area. With the arrival of more police reinforcements, the situation was gradually brought under control. In the process, the police had to resort to cane charges and the use of tear gas to disperse violent crowds. Some people were hurt and a few arrests made.

By the evening, the pushing of coke and the operation of the power house and of the first blast furnace were resumed. Later in the evening, the second blast furnace was also re-started.

The area was patrolled by the police in the night and no incidents have been reported. There has so far been no serious damage to any part of the plant. The local authorities consider that there is now adequate police force to restore peace and order. I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that in a situation like this the first duty of the Government is to restore peace and order.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I ask one question?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow hon. Members once again to go on putting questions.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I did not get a chance.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to give a chance. It is not as if every hon. Member has got to be given a chance. I have to make up my mind as to what exactly the position is, and if I come to the *prima facie* conclusion that there is a case for us to adjourn, I will do so. I am satisfied that there is no *prima facie* case. If the authorities had actually acted in a way other than what they did, I would have allowed the adjournment motion.

It is really unfortunate, because all of us were under the impression that this is one of the three plants where there has been no trouble at all. It was only on the 3rd or 4th of this month that I was there. The hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister of Russia were there later. The hon. Member has suggested "We must anticipate trouble everywhere and we must have a machinery for this trouble". I am yet to see an hon. Member rising in his seat, saying or advising these people to do better service. After the change-over of the Government in 1947 we seem to continue the same old course of crying "my conditions of service should be improved", as if those who are in the

[Mr. Speaker]

service do not belong to this country. Hereafter, instead of moving adjournment motions of this kind, I would suggest to them to go round the country and advise the workers to do better service and then demand better conditions of service. Because, this kind of thing cannot go on.

I have made enquiries from some of the Russian engineers there "Is there any labour trouble there?" And they have replied "fortunately, there is nothing here". The hon. Finance Minister was there, and he went round the plant. The hon. Prime Minister of Russia also went there. Now, in spite of all these, some trouble arises and if a man fasts, I am really surprised that people should have taken notice of it. I will never allow any matter to be brought here, merely because a man chooses to fast. Let him go on fasting. It is wrong to have brought it up here. I disallow the adjournment motion.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Yes, let us not be weak-kneed.

Shri Vajpayee: On a point of clarification.

Mr. Speaker: There is no point for clarification.

Shri Rajendra Singh: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order.

Shri Rajendra Singh: On a point..

Mr. Speaker: No point of order can arise out of my order.

Shri Rajendra Singh: I am not raising anything against your order. It has something to do with the adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: Under the rules, a point of order cannot be raised on nothing. I am going to take up the next item. **Shri K. D. Malaviya.**

Shri Rajendra Singh: Sir, may I point out.....

Mr. Speaker: If he persists, I will have to take disciplinary action against him. There cannot be a point of order on nothing. I have given my ruling on this adjournment motion. No point of order can be raised on my ruling. If that is accepted, there is nothing on which a point of order can arise. If the hon. Member wants to say anything, let him write to me. I will bring it up tomorrow, if I think there is anything important in it.

12.25 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER MINES & MINERALS (REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT) ACT.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, a copy of Notification No. GSR 1366, dated the 12th December, 1959. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1900/60].

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): On behalf of Shri Datar, I beg to re-lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951, a copy of each of the following Notifications:—

- (a) GSR No. 957 dated the 22nd August, 1959 making certain amendments to the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.
- (b) GSR No. 958 dated the 22nd August, 1959 making certain amendment to the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1954. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1581/59].
- (c) GSR No. 983 dated the 29th August, 1959 making certain