

why Government did not take any action *suo motu* without the workers going on strike?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us have all the facts. If the workers feel satisfied and if they have withdrawn the strike, should we press it further now at this moment without knowing all the facts?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: They went on strike on 3rd February and continued to be on strike till this morning. Why was it that the Government was not susceptible to their demands and did not take action, but allowed them to go on strike?

Shri Abid Ali: Whenever we receive complaints from workers, we convene a meeting of the workers' representatives and employers' representatives and our conciliation officers do their best to see that an amicable settlement is reached. But if one of the parties becomes obstinate, we have no powers to force them. Our efforts fortunately succeeded and the strike has been called off.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Before the strike, is it a fact that the workers made these demands and if so may I know whether the conciliation officer or the Regional Labour Commissioner did intervene or not? If not, what are the reasons for not intervening in the matter?

Shri Abid Ali: I have not got exact information on this point. But as a matter of procedure, it is the duty of the conciliation officers that whenever they receive any complaints, they should enquire into them and try to bring about reconciliation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: But did they actually intervene or not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Deputy Minister said that information is not available with him. He will collect it and he will supply the information.

12.25 hrs.

RELIGIOUS TRUSTS BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Shri Jaganatha Rao (Koraput): I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the better supervision and administration of certain religious trusts be further extended upto the 31st August, 1961."

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): I would like to know the reasons for extending time till the next session.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: The committee received several memoranda from various organisations and the committee examined several witnesses. The committee is scheduled to meet on 20th March, to examine some more witnesses. This Bill has aroused a lot of controversy in the country and we want to do justice to various organisations to represent their points of view. That is why much time was taken. We hope we will conclude the deliberations before August, 1961.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the better supervision and administration of certain religious trusts be further extended upto the 31st August, 1961."

The motion was adopted.