

[Mr. Speaker]

wanted that the House should know the Government's view. The hon. Member who has tabled the motion has no objection, but another hon. Member wants to come back on my paraphrase.

**Shri Vijayram Raju:** I asked you to read it out; when you refused, I accepted it.

#### FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

**Mr. Speaker:** There is another adjournment motion relating to the alarming food situation in the country and the prevailing famine conditions in many parts as revealed by press reports, etc. I have already said that the hon. Minister will take this matter also into consideration when he makes the statement tomorrow. As he himself has said, if his statement does not cover all the points raised here either by way of adjournment motions, questions or calling attention, those matters may be referred to in the debate. Even then if hon. Members are not satisfied, we shall consider it later.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat):** In addition to the famine conditions and scarcity, the very sharp rise in the price of rice has also to be dealt with in the statement by the hon. Minister, because that is also important.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is the subject-matter of a series of questions, which I have admitted; I am sending them on to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister will kindly take note of that also.

There is another adjournment motion by Shri Ramji Verma again on the food situation. Then, there is an adjournment motion by Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai.

#### STRIKE BY BURMAH-SHELL EMPLOYEES

**Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai (Madras North):** I have given notice

of an adjournment motion and I should like it to be read out.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am reading it.

"The grave and imminent threat of a general strike in the oil-distributing industry which will paralyse the economic life of the country consequent on notices being served on the striking employees of Burmah-Shell that if they fail to resume work by tomorrow, they will all be dismissed."

What is the suggestion of the hon. Member? Does he suggest that they may go on striking and the employers should go on keeping quiet? What is the adjournment motion? How is this Government responsible for this?

**Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai:** Under the Industrial Disputes Act, the Government of India can appoint a national tribunal to settle this dispute.

**Mr. Speaker:** Has that been the demand?

**Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai:** The point is this. Certainly, no one has declared this particular strike as illegal. It is true that the workers have a right to strike; but, as to whether the strike is justified or not, no one has declared anything. The workers have felt that they are being dealt with arbitrarily. All that the workers have requested is that this particular question should be referred to a tribunal or a labour court for settlement. In April, 1956,...

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us not have a general survey of this matter. What is the failure of the Government. They were asked to refer this matter to a tribunal and they failed to do it. Is that the failure of the Government?

**Shri S. C. C. Anthony Pillai:** They have been told on the 11th of this month that the interpretation of a Settlement that was reached under the Industrial