

Shri Abid Ali: I have already said that it was a unanimous agreement of the parties concerned.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, it was only for three or four months that an agreement was drawn up in 1953 by a party which did not enjoy the confidence of the workers. This agreement was reached because, it was said, there was a crisis in the textile industry at the time. Now, they are flouting all government orders and the Deputy Minister says that the contention of Mr. Pande is correct. If the Centre were to forget the interests of the workers as against the interests of the employers, what is going to be the fate of labour?

Mr. Speaker: Let us now take up the next item.

12.29 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

(i) STRIKE OF BUILDING WORKERS IN DELHI

Shri Balraj Madhok (New Delhi): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

The recent strike of building workers in Delhi.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abil Ali): On the 20th September, 1960, the Delhi Administration issued a Notification under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, revising the minimum rates of wages notified earlier under the Act for employment on the construction or maintenance of roads or in building operations in the Union Territory of Delhi. These became effective from the 1st November, 1960.

On the 11th April 1961 about 600 workers falling within the State

sphere resorted to a strike on the ground that employers in building operations had not implemented the notified revised rates. After two days all these workers returned to duty. Four days later, building workers both in the State and Central spheres went on strike demanding payment of the rates as revised by the Delhi Administration. In the State sphere the strike has already ended, and in the Central sphere also it does not now exist.

The strike in certain Central sphere undertakings under the Minimum Wages Act was mainly over the issue of the upward revision of wages. Necessary action has already been taken to revise the rates of wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act for workers in the Central sphere also.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: What new wages have been fixed?

Mr. Speaker: There are five more Calling Attention notices. Under Rule 197 (3) not more than one Calling Attention notice could be admitted for the same day. But today being the last day, five other Calling Attention notices are put down on the Order Paper and the statements in respect of them may be laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Minister of Labour and Employment, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Works, Housing and Supply as is usual in such cases.

(ii) VISIT OF PAKISTAN WATER RESOURCES EXPERTS TO CALCUTTA PORT

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 92].

(ii) VISIT OF PAKISTANI WATER RESOURCES EXPERTS IN RANGANJ COAL BELT AREA

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Gulsari Lal Nanda): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 93].