

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

Statement

The demand of the employees of the banks were referred to National Tribunal in March, 1960. While the regular hearings were in progress, the bank employees Associations challenged the validity of section 34A of the Banking Companies Act. The Tribunal rejected the petition. Against this decision a section of the employees approached the Bombay High Court which upheld the decision of the National Tribunal. Subsequently, petitions were filed by the All India Bank Employees Association and the State Bank of India Staff Union before the Supreme Court requesting for a declaration that the said section was *ultra vires*. While admitting the petitions, the Supreme Court directed the National Tribunal not to give its award in the dispute till the petitions were disposed of. On 28th August, 1961, the Supreme Court also upheld the validity of the said section and dismissed the applications filed by the employees Associations.

The proceedings before the tribunal are in progress and it is expected that the hearing will be concluded before the end of the current month.

REPORTED SUICIDE BY A RESEARCH
STUDENT OF DELHI UNIVERSITY

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Education to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported suicide by a research assistant of the Delhi University.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I lay a Statement on the Table.

Statement

It has been reported by the Delhi University authorities that Shri P. N. Gambheer, a Research Assistant under a C.S.I.R. Scheme, committed suicide

on the evening of Saturday, the 2nd September, 1961 at 6 P.M., according to a note left by him on his table in the laboratory of the New Block of Zoology Department. Shri Gambheer's research was connected with the problem to detect the effect of Potassium Cyanide on different types of protozoa. Saturday and Sunday, the 2nd and 3rd September 1961 being holidays, the University was closed. The dead body was discovered on Monday, the 4th September, 1961 at 9-30 A.M. when the laboratory was opened by a Research Scholar, Kumari R. Vimla Devi working in the same laboratory and also by a sweeper of the Department who followed her to clean the room. Immediately the sweeper came running to the room of Dr. L. N. Johri, Acting Head of the Department of Zoology in the Old Block, Zoology Department to convey the message. On getting the news, Dr. Johri rang up the Health Centre of the University with a request to send the Doctor on Duty to examine Shri Gambheer. The Doctor arrived within a few minutes, examined Shri Gambheer and pronounced that he was dead long before and his body was stiff. Dr. Johri met the Registrar to explain the situation to him. Thereafter on the advice of the Registrar, Dr. Johri informed the Officer-in-charge, Roshanara Police Station and after a few minutes the Police arrived, visited the dead body and started their investigations. A note dated the 2nd September, 1961 written by Shri Gambheer was found on the table. It was worded 'Injected few grams of potassium cyanide to see reaction. In case death occurs the body may be cremated and the ashes immersed in the Jumna waters. Goodbye to research. Goodbye to all. I do not owe anything to anybody'. An envelope containing Rs. 84.02 nP. was also found on the table on which was written "this is for cremation".

Some torn pieces of paper were found on Shri Gambheer's table under the heap of some books and papers. **Dr. Johri managed to assemble these**

pieces as far as possible. This paper gives some effects of the poison on the body between 6.00 and 6-25 P.M. The Police had picked up these torn pieces from Shri Gambheer's waste paper basket in the laboratory and they were put on the table. The matter is under investigation and no report from the Police has been received so far.

NON-REINSTATEMENT OF SOME DISMISSED EMPLOYEES AND DELAY IN RESTORATION OF RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES' UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The non-reinstatement of over 300 dismissed employees and delay in restoring recognition of the employees' Federations and Unions that participated in July 1960 strike.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I lay a Statement on the Table.

Statement

According to the latest information available, orders of dismissal and removal passed against 170 employees and orders of discharge passed against 102 employees are now in force. Considering that departmental proceedings were initially instituted against about 46,000 employees, and 2,079 were dismissed or removed, and 2,137 discharged, the number against whom orders of dismissal, removal and discharge now stand is small. This shows that action has finally been taken very sparingly. The employees who took part in the strike were not only guilty of indiscipline but also of offences punishable under the law. It would in the circumstances be against the public interest to condone their conduct whole-sale. It is, however, open to the individuals affected to submit an appeal or memorial to the

appropriate authority, which will consider each case on merits.

2. The question of restoration of recognition to unions and associations whose recognition was withdrawn following the strike is under the consideration of Government, and their decision will be announced shortly.

FLOODS IN ORISSA

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Puri): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The situation arising out of the heavy floods in Orissa this week.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim): I lay the Statement on the Table.

Statement

The calling attention notice regarding the situation arising out of the floods in Orissa during this week was received in my Ministry at 8-30 P.M. last evening. Immediately my officers endeavoured to establish contact with the State Government officials on the telephone but were unable to obtain any useful information. At our instance, a special officer of the Orissa Government has been designated to supply information to us from time to time regarding the flood situation in the State. No information has so far been received by my Ministry from this officer.

The latest information with my Ministry relates to the 2nd of September when it was reported to us through a bulletin issued by the Orissa Government that the flood levels in the Baitarni and the Brahmini rivers were below danger points.

For the first time we came to know on the morning of the 7th September from papers and from the news