

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, January 8, 1976/Pausa 18,
1897 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Strikes and Lock-outs in Industries during July to December, 1975

*41. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there are fewer strikes,
gheraos, lock-outs etc. during the
Emergency in various industries in the
country;

(b) how many strikes, gheraos,
lock-outs were resorted to during
July to December, 1974 and during
July to December, 1975 in various
industries in the country; and

(c) what steps Government have
planned to stop all gheraos and lock-
outs in various industries in the near
future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR
(SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). The position regard-
ing number of work-stoppages due to
strikes, lock-outs and gheraos during
1946-1

July-December, 1974 and July-Decem-
ber, 1975 was as follows:

Period	No. of work-stoppages	
	Strikes/ Lock-outs	Gheraos
July-December, 1974	1421	5
July-December, 1975 (Provisional)	402	4

While there have been fewer strikes/
lock-outs and gheraos during the
period following the emergency, in-
creasing lay-offs and retrenchments in
several industries in the private sector
which have been brought to the atten-
tion of the Ministry of Labour have
been causing Government some con-
cern.

(c) The Industrial Relations Machi-
nery both at the Centre and in the
States continues to make efforts to
minimise work-stoppages through
informal mediation, concillation, ad-
judication or arbitration as necessary
under the existing statutory provisions
and voluntary arrangements.

Government have set up a Bipartite
National Apex Body to review the in-
dustrial relations climate in the
country and to promote harmony and
industrial peace to secure uninterrupt-
ed production. Similar Bipartite
Bodies have been set up for several
industries as well. State Governments
have also been requested to set up
similar Bodies at the State level.

श्रीमती सावित्री श्याम अध्यक्ष महोदय,
माननीय मन्त्री जी ने अपने स्टेटमेंट में
जुलाई से दिसम्बर तक स्ट्राइक और लाक-
आउट्स की फीगर्स 422 दी है लेकिन उन्होंने

अलग अलग नहीं बताया है कि कितनी स्ट्राइक्स हुईं और कितनी लाक-आउट्स हुईं जो कि उन्हें बताया चाहिए था। मेरी नज़र में यह बात आई है कि स्ट्राइक्स कम हुईं हैं और लाक-आउट्स ज्यादा हुईं हैं। इमर्जेंसी के एक महीने बाद मलवारी इन्वेंटिंग प्रोडक्ट्स, लि०, मगलौर फैक्टरी में स्ट्राइक हुई। अभी दो-तीन दिन हुए शिकोहाबाद में एक लार्ज-स्केल स्ट्राइक और लाक-आउट हुई। और आज के ही अखबार में पढ़ा है कि कानपुर की स्वदेशी मिल्स और लक्ष्मीरतन मिल्स में वर्कर्स को रिट्रेन्चमेंट कर रहे हैं और मिल बन्द कर रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि नेशनल ग्रुपिंग बाडी ग्रान्ट लेबर, जिसका उन्होंने जिकर किया है उसकी मीटिंग में 13 अगस्त, 1975 को निश्चय हुआ था कि ले-आफ नहीं होगा।

The National Apex Body on labour decided this on 13-8-1975. The loss on account of this will be borne by the accumulated resources of the factory. May I know what are the reasons for not having fulfilled the promises made in the Apex Body or what happened to the decisions which were decided upon?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Sir, the number of strikes and lock-outs during the period July-December, 1974 was 1421 accounting for 98 million man-days loss while the number of strikes and lock-outs during the period July-December 1975 was 402 accounting for 23 million man-days loss. Similarly there have been fewer strikes/lock-outs and gheraos during the period following the emergency, that is July-December 1975. In other words, the number of man-days lost after the emergency was declared, is very low. With regard to the analysis about which the hon. Member asked, that is to make a division between the lock-outs and strikes, we are getting the information. This information is not readily available. While strike ends, lock-out takes place

and when lock-out ends, strike takes place. And an analysis is being made on this. As soon as it is available, I will certainly make it available. Though the Labour Ministry and the concerned Ministries are assisting the Apex Body in dealing with the various problems, this is essentially a Bipartite Body consisting of representatives of employers and employees. The major trade union organisations at national level representing the workers and the employers organisations are also included. The National Apex Body, when they discussed this question, have formulated these propositions: The National Apex Body urges that there shall not be any unilateral lay-offs in any industry. Any proposal for lay-off should first be discussed at the plant level bipartite meetings and if there is agreement at that level, lay-off may be introduced subject to the terms of such agreement. However, if there is no agreement at the plant level bilateral discussions the matter shall be taken up either by the State or the national committee for the industry within a specified time-limit. Where the lay-off is confined to units in an industry within one State, only the State shall be competent to deal with it. Where, however, units in the industry in more than one State are affected by lay-off, the matter shall be decided by the national committee for the industry. While bona fide lay-off for reasons beyond the control of the management have to be dealt with sympathetically, other kinds of lay-off, including lay-off on account of economic reasons will have to be dealt with differently. Where the employer has been making profits or built-up substantial reserves, all efforts should be made to pay the workers during the lay-off period from the accumulated resources. In spite of this understanding between the representatives of employers and employees at the Apex Body, it has come to the notice of the Government that there are still some lay-offs and retrenchments taking place. You will kindly recall that the Government has

already issued a statement that the government is seriously concerned with this and steps by way of legislation are contemplated. This matter is under the serious consideration of the government

SHRIMATI ŚAVITRI SHYAM: My specific question was, what was the number of lock-outs and what was the number of lay-offs. I am not satisfied with the reply. You can ask the minister to give me the figures at a later stage. May I know what action Government is taking against those industries which have not followed these decisions on lay-offs and lock-outs? There is little difference between the two.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I respectfully submit that there is difference between lock-out and lay-off and between lock-out and strike. We are mainly concerned here with lay-offs, retrenchments and closures which directly affect the workers. Lock-out also affects but that is a different category. I have already said that I shall supply the break-up between the lock-outs and lay-offs as soon as the information is available.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The minister said that the government is seriously concerned about the situation and it is contemplating to bring some legislation. Is it not a fact that the apex body—the workers' side—did recommend that in the absence of suitable legislation, an ordinance should be brought to prevent lay-offs, retrenchments and closures? And whether this was not the recommendation of the Apex Body. Whether it is a fact that in Kanpur three textile mills i.e., Laxmi Rattan Cotton Mills, Swedeshi Mills and Kanpur Udyog, are closed for the last one year and ten thousand workers are on the street?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: There are two aspects of the question. One is with regard to the ordinance that is presumed to have been recommended by the Apex Body. Actually,

it was mentioned by the representatives of the employees in the proceedings of the Apex Body and not by the employers. I am mentioning this as a statement of fact. As I have already said the Government has also made a statement with regard to this matter. The processing of legislation is under active consideration of the Government. Therefore, when the legislation is ready, the Government would take necessary steps. With regard to the closure of Laxmi Rattan and other mills, with great respect, I would say that the hon. Member knows much more than the Government. The hon. Member has raised this matter quite a number of times. This matter has been discussed by the Apex Body, the National Industrial Committee on Textile Industry, and both the State and Central Governments are fully seized of the matter and they are seriously concerned with it.

श्री मोहम्मद इस्माइल : सब से पहले तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसी किस्म का सवाल मेरा भी था, उस का मंत्री महोदय ने क्यों रिजेक्ट किया ?

उम के बाद मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट जानती है कि एमर्जेन्सी ने फायदा उठा कर एम्प्लायर्स मजदूरों के साथ अनपेक्षित प्रेक्टिसिज कर रहे हैं और आप उम को जानबूझ कर एलाउ कर रहे हैं ताकि मजदूर बाध्य होकर एग््रीमेंट करें। मैं आप के सामने कलकत्ते के रिज होटल की मिसाल रखना चाहता हूँ—वहाँ गैर कानूनी तरीके से लोक-आउट किया गया और चार महीने से अभी तक कन्टीन्यू है, आप की तरफ से अभी तक कोई इन्टरवेंशन नहीं किया गया।

इसी तरह से खरदा जूट मिल में 6-7 महीने से 6 हजार मजदूरों को जबरदस्ती निकाल कर लोक-आउट किया गया और उस का कोई कारण नहीं बतलाया गया है, यहाँ तक कि उन का जनवरी का बेज भी बकाया है...

श्री प्रियरंजन दास मुन्शी: एक मजदूर की हत्या भी कर दी गई है।

श्री मोहम्मद इस्माइल : मैं आप से साफ़ तौर से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस के बारे में आप क्या स्टेप्स लेने जा रहे हैं ?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister should reply about the unfair labour practices and not about the details.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I have already mentioned to the hon. House about the existing lay-offs, retrenchments and closures. And with regard to this, the Government is contemplating legislation and the Government has already issued a statement. It is a statement which might also be published. With regard to hotels and all these matters, as you have been pleased to observe Sir, these are all matters which fall within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. I do not want to go into the matter. This question relates to the general question of lay-offs, strikes and lock-outs.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question. 15 minutes have already been taken

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am requesting you in all humility, kindly to allow a short discussion on Question 41.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: I subscribe to the view of Mr Banerjee and I am not putting forth any supplementaries on Question 41

Proposed Visit of President Ford to India

*42. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether President Ford has expressed his desire to visit India; and

(b) if so, when the visit will take place?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). In response to a long standing invitation from the Government of India, President Ford has expressed his intention to pay a goodwill visit to India. The visit will take place at a mutually convenient date which is yet to be settled.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Since, in his Answer, the hon. Minister has stated that this is a long standing invitation, I would like to know as to when actually the invitation was given by the Government of India to the President of the United States of America, whether it was given at the time of President Nixon or after Mr. Ford had assumed office. At the time of extending the invitation, did the Government of India try to draw the attention of the Government of the United States to their declared policy of de-stabilization; and if so, what was the reaction of the Government of India and the answer of the U.S. Government?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: The invitation to President Ford was given in the first instance when he was elected as the Vice-President. Then it was repeated when he became the President. Then again when the Secretary of State Dr. Kissinger visited India, at the end of those discussions we repeated this. It was repeated by me when I called on him during my visit to Washington. Naturally, with President Ford I had not discussed this question. We discussed other points. We discussed about bilateral relations and ways of improving them

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Since we all want peace and friendship with almost all the countries of the world and it is our national policy, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, during his meeting with President Ford in the United States to which he has