

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOUNDRY AND FORGE TECHNOLOGY, RANCHI

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. D. P. YADAVA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 1970-71. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-945/71].

15 hrs.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF A MEMBER DURING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East) : I beg to present the First Report of the Committee on the Conduct of a Member during President's Address.

MOTION RE. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS DURING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East) : I beg to move :

"That this House do further extend the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee on the Conduct of a Member during President's Address on guidelines for Members on the occasion of the President's Address to Members of Parliament, upto the last day of the first week of the Budget Session, 1972."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is a little confusing about the arrangement of the business. After item No. 17 there was to be the Prime Minister's statement and then what you have moved now, namely item No. 18. But since you have moved it, I think we can reverse the order.

The question is :

"That the House do further extend the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee on the Conduct of a Member during President's Address on guidelines for Members on the occasion of the

President's Address to Members of Parliament, upto the last day of the first week of the Budget Session, 1972."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : I want to draw your attention that statement made by the Railway Minister on the retirement of...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order, order. That is over now.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I will not take more than one minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If I allow you, the whole procedure will be upset.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : There should be a discussion on it in the House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : He can give notice. I have already given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You should have raised it at the proper time.

15.02 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

THE PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : I have just returned from a tour of Belgium, Austria, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The decision to pay official visits to these countries was taken much earlier in response to repeated invitations and in consonance with the practice of reciprocity. The House will remember that President Nixon and Prime Minister Heath had visited our country in 1970, Chancellor Kiesinger in 1969 and President Pompidou when he was Prime Minister. But owing to our general elections, my visit had to be postponed.

In spite of the grave situation in Bangla Desh and along our borders in the West

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

Pakistan, I undertook this visit as an earnest of our desire to leave nothing unexplored which might lead to an easing of the burdens imposed upon us and to discourage those who are bent upon finding excuses to threaten our security. It is the complete self-assurance of our people and the unity of all our parties which gave me the confidence to undertake the visit at a time of national danger.

My visit enabled me to exchange ideas with the Heads of governments and leaders of public opinion at a point of time when important changes were taking place in the world and to put across to them our point of view on matters of world interest, bilateral relations, and more especially on the situation in Bangla Desh and the threat it is posing to our social, political and economic structure and to peace in this region.

Our discussions helped to remove certain misgivings and to focus attention on the root cause of the problem, that is the refusal of the Pakistan military regime to respect the verdict of their own people, the reign of terror let loose by them in Bangla Desh and the consequent influx of refugees into India. I think that these countries as well as others realise that it will not help to deal with peripheral problems without finding a political solution in Bangla Desh through negotiations with the already elected leaders of the people of East Bengal and in accordance with their legitimate wishes. Most countries also realise that the release of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman is essential and intend to impress this upon the military regime of Pakistan.

After a long period of tragic indifference and sheltering behind the thinly disguised legalistic formulation that it was merely an internal affair of Pakistan, there is now a growing sense of urgency seeking a solution.

Pakistan's efforts to side-track and cloud the basic issue by seeking to involve the United Nations and to transform the struggle of the people of Bangla Desh into Pakistan confrontation and conflict have been exposed. It is now well understood that India will not be misled by Pakistan's moves and that the military junta in Pakistan must come to terms with the people whom they have treated with such injustice

and cruelty. It is also widely appreciated that no country has any right to impose a solution on the people of East Bengal and that force could not suppress the spirit of freedom and nationalism with which they are inspired.

During my visit to the United States, I was informed that a decision had been taken to stop further shipments of arms to Pakistan. A formal announcement has since been made. I was given to understand that no arms are being supplied from the U.K. France and the F R G.

It is my earnest hope that joint or several efforts of the statesmen whom I met will make the military regime in Pakistan realise that no good can come of sabre-rattling or by forcing a military conflict on India. I hope it is not too late for sane counsel to prevail for one cannot go on ignoring hard facts. The just and legitimate aspirations of the people of Bangla Desh, indeed of West Pakistan also cannot be ignored and trampled upon.

There was general sympathy for the manner in which we are bearing the heavy burden of looking after over nine million refugees. There have been indications of additions to the funds for giving relief to the refugees. All these countries agree that conditions must be created inside East Bengal to stop the further influx of refugees and to facilitate the return to their homeland in safety and human dignity of those in India.

Having said this I must make it clear that we cannot depend on the international community, or even the countries which I visited, to solve our problems for us. We appreciate their sympathy and moral and political support, but the brunt of the burden has to be borne by us and by the people of Bangla Desh who have our fullest sympathy and support.

So far as the threat to our security is concerned, we must be prepared—and we are prepared—to the last man and woman, to safeguard our freedom and territorial integrity. Obviously we cannot take risks such as the withdrawal of our forces from the border unless the situation in Bangla Desh is resolved satisfactorily as it poses a serious threat to our security.

Solutions have been found or initiated even to seemingly insoluble problems — as for instance in Europe and between the United States and China—by a wise impulse in men of wisdom and vision. But these developments should not lull us into complacency or wishful thinking.

In Europe there is a welcome spirit of detente, which we hope will soon lead to stable security in that continent. This should have a stabilising influence in Asia and other parts of the world. There was a realisation that political detente should be combined with outward-looking economic policies, especially in regard to the needs of the developing world.

Bilateral economic relations were also discussed with these countries. There was a sympathetic response. Belgium, France and the FRG have shown understanding that there should be a broad outlook in approaching the relations between India and European Economic Community. There are new possibilities of our collaboration in the industrial, technological and scientific fields.

In brief, these are the impressions which I should like to share with honourable Members. I am deliberately not mentioning the leaders of individual countries by name because they were all full of sympathy and friendship for India.

I think my visit also helped to restore our relations with Britain which had suffered a serious setback in 1965.

I should also like to express, on behalf of the Governments and the people of India, my sincere thanks to the Governments and peoples of the countries I visited for the warm and friendly reception I received everywhere. I should further record my appreciation of the world Press which, by and large, has given a fair and objective account of the events in Bangladesh, of the inexpressible horror let loose upon the people, of the heroic struggles which they are waging in defence of the most elementary democratic right and liberties.

May I take this opportunity of thanking my people and all the political parties who have shown wisdom and restraint and kept

the nation united against any external threat ?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I conclude this statement with a reminder that in the community of nations our country symbolises the urge for peace, freedom and justice. There was a time when ours was a lone voice in a world which was in the grip of the cold war. Even in the midst of the grave crisis which the military rulers of Pakistan have created for us, our people, our country, and this great Parliament of the largest democracy in the world have maintained the spirit of peace and of self-restraint. We have refused to be excited by threat or provocation from across our borders. Let us then continue to conduct ourselves with quiet confidence in ourselves so that the world should see and know that India cannot be browbeaten or lulled into a false sense of security. Calmness of spirit and strength go together. India is calm and we are capable of taking decisions in defence of our security and stability.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah) :
Sir, we want a discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He can give notice of a motion for that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It should also be circulated.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : I had a meeting with the leaders of groups this morning. It has been agreed that we will have a discussion. It is for you and the Business Advisory Committee to fix the date.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then it is only a question of time.

15.13 hrs.

RE : MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have received a motion of no-confidence in the Council of Ministers under rule 198 from Shri Samar Guha. The motion, slightly edited reads as follows :

"This House expresses its want of confidence in the Council of Ministers."