

12.00 hrs.

**RE. RESTORATION OF RECOGNITION
TO RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE
ASSOCIATION AND REINSTATEMENT
OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES DISMISSED
AFTER THE STRIKE IN 1974**

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
Where is the Railway Minister? The recognition was given by the previous Government. The previous Government accorded the recognition. But this Government has withdrawn it. (*Interruptions*)

At this stage, Sri Basudeb Acharia and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members to go back to their seats.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I would request all the hon. Members once again to go back to their seats.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you call the Railway Minister right now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATISUBHASHINALI (Kanpur):
Call the Railway Minister at once. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would request the hon. Members...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to tell the hon. Members that Shri Janeshwar Mishra has come and he is going to make a statement. Therefore, I would request them to go to their seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Will you please go back to your seats? It doesn't look nice to disturb the proceedings. Please go back to your seats. The hon. Minister will make a statement.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

At this stage, Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Let us now hear Shri Janeshwar Mishra.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs, all of you may take your seats. Shastriji, you also take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janeshwar Mishra, I would request Shri Harish Rawat and Shri Kumaramangalam to please resume your seats.

At this stage Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they knew it beforehand that the Railway Minister was going to make a statement and concede all the points today. Why then this drama in this House? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order in it? Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: If they really have any sympathy with the employees, They should withdraw their support to the government. Why don't they do so? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): They knew it well in advance that the hon. Minister is going to accept the demands of the employees. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Perhaps all of them knew it, they might have been given some hint to this effect. How can the business of the House be transacted in this way?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar): Nobody knows how many employees were retrenched.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: They knew everything beforehand as to what statement the hon. Minister was going to make. All the demands are being accepted. They had talks with the Railway Minister in the morning itself and they knew that he is going to make a statement in the House today.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: In the morning today, the people outside the House were saying that they were going to sit in the well of the House. Every thing was orchestrated. They had announced their plan in advance.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue relates to the workers. When they knew in advance that their demands were going to be accepted, what was the need to stage this drama, why did they stage dharna in the well of the House? *(Interruptions)* If they are really fed up with the government why are they supporting it. They should withdraw their support.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): All this is happening with your connivance. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Mr. Khurana.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker , Sir, they should withdraw support first because they knew it beforehand that their demands were going to be accepted. When that was the case, why are they creating this uproar in the House? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat Mr. Khurana.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): Mr Speaker, Sir, the government has all along been considering the demands of the employees sympathetically. Even before we joined the government, our approach has been to deal with the employees organisations sympathetically.

When Shri Madhu Dandavate and Shri George Fernandes were the incharge of this department, the union was not given recognition, but our approach has been to give sympathetic consideration to such demand, whenever they are based. Before we considered this demand, we discussed it with my predecessor Shri George Fernandes. Shri Kumaramangalam, all colleagues of our

cabinet and the leaders sitting in the opposition including Shri Khurana pressurised us. *(Interruptions)* All of them pressurised us. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We have been demanding for the recognition of Railway Protection Force from the time of Congress regime. It was illegally withdrawn. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: What I am saying is that earlier also the opposition leaders raised this demand and during the rule of the Congress Party, the Congressmen themselves raised the demand that the R.P.F. employees should be given the right to form association. That shows that both the opposition and the ruling party members pressurised for this demand. When the R.P.F. Act was amended in 1985, the right to form an association of RPF was abrogated. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Mr. Harish Rawat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: In 1985, R.P.F. was made an armed force and the point whether an armed force should be given the right to form an association was considered. It was in this context that their right to form an association was withdrawn. The R.P.F. personnel challenged this Act in the Supreme Court and the case is pending uptill now. However, it is within the jurisdiction of the government to give them right to form an association afresh under this Act. Now that there is pressure from the House and the House is Supreme it is the duty of the Government to respect the sentiments of the House. It was in this light that I had told Shri

Kumaramangalam at 10 O'clock yesterday that... *(Interruptions)* Two-three days back, he had written a letter to you and the Prime Minister, a copy of which was also forwarded to me. In response to that letter, I had informed him that the government was considering the demand and as such, there was no need to resort to sit in the well of the House. But Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot condemn the practice of resorting to sit in the well of the House because we ourselves were in the opposition and we used to resort to these tactics... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: We did not indulge in such things.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Khurana is even now trying to exercise pressure... *(Interruptions)* We had told them yesterday that since the matter was under consideration, they should not resort to this type of action tomorrow. Today I sent a message from office at about 10.45 a.m. saying that we all going to accept their demands in view of the objections raised by the R.P.F. Association to the provisions of the amendment to the Act. Had the old Act been in force we would have somehow brought them round, but the Act has since undergone a change and the situation too has changed a bit. It is now more than 7-8 years since the Act was amended, and the government has decided that they may be given the right to form Association. I do not feel there is any need to create noisy scheme on this issue now... *(Interruptions)*

I feel that this matter should be closed now. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Tell us about victimisation. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): What do you say about the people

[Sh. Shopat Singh Makkasar]

who have been dismissed ... Shri George Fernandes had announced here... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is taken in by any pretext, this is not good.

[*English*]

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Naturally this is a very serious matter that we are agitating. Another decision of Mr. George Fernandes has been stayed on the plea of review. That is the reinstatement of the dismissed railway employees belonging to the loco running staff under Rule 14(2) without any enquiry, without anything. We want this Government must announce here and now that they would be taken back to job as per the decision of Mr. George Fernandes. On the plea of review of the last few days' decisions, they cannot hold up the reinstatement of these employees. We want immediate declaration of them. We have been demanding for this. Railway Minister, in his so called mini budget, did not refer to anything. Why does not he refer to the employees question? We have raised it so many times. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: The Railway Minister had assured in Kanpur that the dismissed employees will be re-instated. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Leader of Opposition.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two aspects—one is

about the recognition and the other is about the re-instatement of dismissed employees. I feel that the announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister just now that the Government is concerned about the welfare of employees will be tested by the reply to the question raised by Shri Somnathji just now. So I wish the Minister to reply to both these questions. About recognition, he has already said that it will be given but I wish the Minister to reply the main question raised by Somnathji. I want that the employees should be re-instated. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: A decision has already been taken by the former Railway Minister. (*Interruptions*) Order of reinstatement does not require any change in the law. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has understood that; the Minister knows that.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one so that the Hon'ble Minister may follow you and reply to your questions.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Sir, you cannot allow the hon. Members to condemn me without hearing me. (*Interruptions*) Sir, he has been assuring that 'he will grant', 'he will grant'; and not that he has granted. It is nice to shed crocodile tears on the floor of the House and say that we will grant recognition. But this matter has been pending with the hon. Minister for the last three months; the Prime Minister has directed him; his colleague, the Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha has requested him; memorandum after memorandum has

been given. Order was issued by the former Minister. But, in the name of review, till now, orders are not being issued. Legal excuses are being sought which don't exist. Under the Act, there is no charge need be given. *(Interruptions)* Sir, but he is refusing that. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kumaramangalam, he has understood your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, even on the question of reinstatement, the order exists; it is only a matter of passing it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri George Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Lalkrishen Advani has raised two questions here and has expected replies on them from the Government. One question is about the dismissed employees. Hundreds of employees were dismissed during the decade of 1980-89 by the then Government under Rule 14(2). The case was sent to the court where it was decided that dismissal of those employees was illegal and they should be reinstated. But the then Government refused to act upon that... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT(Almora): The leader of your party was a Minister in that Government. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. George, please give suggestions to solve this problem.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): I would like to know from Shri George as to how many people he had re-employed when he was the Railway Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This question was raised from all sides of this House, and I had said that in the case of the dismissed employees... *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was raised last year at the time of presenting the Budget and I had stated that this question would be solved keeping in view all the aspects of the matter. We issued an order in this regard on 9th September and the only reason for delay in this case was that the Railway Ministry informed us that the question related to persons who had been dismissed ten years back; some of them have passed away and some have retired and some are about to retire. As such, it will take some time to collect the information. When 3 or 4 questions were asked in the House, I had told that the information was being collected and the orders will be issued as soon as the information was received. Finally, when the information came to me, I saw that the people from Railway Board had given the information about one Railway only and when I saw that a particular system was being followed for finding out the number of...

MR. SPEAKER: What was the total number of such employees in the entire country?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: About one thousand employees might have been involved. There was no question of the review of the orders of 9th September. We can understand that there is a need to review the decisions of the Government after you decided that the Government should resign, but the question of reviewing our decision of 9th September should not have arisen and dismissed employees should have been re-

[Sh. George Fernandes]

instated immediately. Second question is of recognition. Now RPF only is being discussed here. There are so many employee's association in the Railway which are not recognised and they are demanding recognition. We have issued a very clear order regarding giving recognition to the associations. Regarding RPF also, we have stated that they should be given recognition without any condition but the order was issued at a time when the decision of withdrawal of the support to the Government had been finalised. If the decision is to be reconsidered, it can be on the technicality aspect only and not on principles. I know that our friend and colleague for so many years, Shri Janeshwar Mishra will not have any difference over this issue so far as principles are concerned and he will take action on it. That is all I have to say. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We want an announcement today here and now. *(Interruptions)* This was on 9th September. *(Interruptions)* There is no reason for withholding it now. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: What is the problem in implementing , if the matter has been decided on 9th September?

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: The Hon'ble Minister had announced in Kanpur that all these Railway employees will be reinstated.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have the right to speak, but the anti-labour party, the Congress Party, who have dismissed those employees have got no right to speak on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No cross-talk please.

[Translation]

Mr. Lodha, please be seated. Rawat Saheb, I am not denying the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Members from the other side have said many things. We, therefore, want to clarify the position... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You will not be able to stop them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House has always been unanimous on these two issues. The dismissed employees should be re-instated... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Be seated, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES: We had reinstated the people dismissed by your Government... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the right of RPF Association may be restored. Regarding this, any body can see from the records that, myself and Hon'ble Member Shri Kumaramangalam and many other Members had fought with our own Government on this issue. The fact is that... *(Interruptions) ...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Biplab Dasgupta, be seated please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Rawat ji, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Hon'ble George Fernandes was presenting the Railway Budget and an announcement was made about re-instatement the people dismissed under Rule 14(2), House was of the opinion that many of the people dismissed under Rule 14(2) might have died by now. When the people dismissed under the black law are re-instated, they should be given the pensionary benefits... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister should give them an assurance that they will be provided with other facilities also along with pension... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate aspect of the whole matter is that when we convinced the then Railway Minister in 1989, the bureaucracy tried to create many hurdles. After the change of the Government also, we tried to raise this matter in the House. I am happy that Hon'ble Members from CPM supported me and you yourself were sympathetic towards this issue... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: When

did you raise this matter?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at that time the Hon'ble Members of the BJP were also sympathetic towards this issue... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khurana, you are being praised. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I remember Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, it is possible that his name might give some uneasiness to Shri Madan Lal Khurana, but Shri Malhotra had supported me then.

They adopted an attitude of running with the hare and hunting with the hound in respect of all issues while supporting the then Government, but still they appreciated and supported our demand. Shri George Fernandes could not even consider this issue during his 10 months tenure as the Minister of Railways. When he felt that their Government was about to fall, he passed an order in the case. *(Interruptions)* The difference between the Minister of Janata Dal Government and that of the Congress Government has been that whereas the Congress Ministers were not able to decide. *(Interruptions)*.... as the elections were round the corner, Shri George Fernandes passed an order when their Government was about to fall. I am distressed to say that Hon. Shri Janeshwar Mishra has been giving the assurance all along that he was going to restore the recognition, but it appears that the bureaucrats of his Ministry *(Interruptions)* withheld the decision till the last moment which compelled Shri Kumaramangalam to take recourse to this. Since the B.J.P. has termed it as State managed show, I would like to make it clear that the Hon. Minister had told us that there would be no precondition on the question of recognition, whereas the letter which he wrote did not make the position clear. Therefore we were forced to come to the well of the House and

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

sit here to draw the attention of the entire House and the country to it. (*Interruptions*) We resorted to this thing to bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister. I would request Shri George Fernandes and Shri Janeshwar Mishra (*Interruptions*) to make it clear as to what they are going to do in this matter.

[*English*]

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is a common demand from all sections of the House. I hope they would not try to provoke others. I am not going into what has happened in the past. We want announcement with regard to the implementation of the decision here and now. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Railways that an atmosphere is being created which gives the impression that there is a difference of opinion in the House on the two issues. From my personal experience, I can say that in such a situation hinderance would be created. My colleague has said that sometimes Government have to find solution to these issues. If the fact that the House is divided on these two issues comes to the knowledge of the officials at the administrative level, I can say with certainty that a member of complications will be created at the railway administration level. Therefore, without going into the history, we want to tell the Hon. Minister that the entire House is one on these two issues. You may tell the Hon. Minister that he should take a decision taking into account the sense of the whole House and make an announcement about that here itself. That is all I want to say. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA (Rajahmundry): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a question relating to the Railway Ministry. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had put a question to the Railway Minister regarding termination of railway workers services last year, answer to which has not so far been given to me. I would like to know the reasons for not taking any action in the matter so far?... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I request the Railway Minister to announce without any pre-condition the grant of recognition.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): Sir, two issues have cropped up and Shri Dandavate was right when he said that the House was one on these issues and there was no difference of opinion. Administrative hindrances do come, but if the Hon. Minister is in favour and I suppose he is—this is the opportune time... (*Interruptions*)

The Hon. Minister should make an announcement to this effect right now. I would like to name the two former Railway Ministers in this regard. They are sitting in the opposition—one on this side and the other on that side. They could not make announcement to this effect though they wanted to. Even when campaign for the Scheduled Castes and peaceful demonstrations had been going on, Mr. Yogi Paswan continues to be under suspension and has been removed from service. However, the Hon. Railway Minister has assured me in a letter that he would consider his case. What I want to say is that the Hon. Minister should make an announcement to this effect right now and earn the goodwill. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been struggling since 1981 on the issue of reinstatement of the personnel whose services were terminated.

MR. SPEAKER: Achariaji, please avoid repetition and be brief in your submission.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I am not repeating, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact is that they had their recognition before 1987, but it was withdrawn following the amendment in the R.P.F. Act in 1987. Rather it was snatched in 1987. Our demand is not new. *(Interruptions)*

We had been demanding their reinstatement since 1981. You know that Loco Running Staff had launched an agitation in 1973 on the question of their work. Attempts were made to frustrate the strike of 1981 too and the workers were dismissed. We have been fighting for their cause since then and this issue was raised in the House not once but a number of times. Today this House also came to know of it. Whenever we approached the Hon. Minister of Railways Shri Janeshwar Mishra, he used to tell us that the Prime Minister had since rescinded the decision. But as per our information, Shri George Fernandes had passed an order to this effect on 8th September. He had issued a statement on 22th October giving the details of the steps being taken the case of those who were killed during agitation and also those who were dismissed. This House is unanimous on the question of reinstatement of dismissed employees. We want their reinstatement. All parties have demand with new voice the immediate reinstatement of the railway employees who were dismissed in 1981 under Section 14(2) of the R.P.F. Act. We want an assurance from the Railway Minister. He should give us an assurance that the order issued by the Government would be implemented immediately and no hindrance would be allowed to come in its way. In case any hindrance

comes in the way, the same should be removed. The employees would be reinstated and the recognition of their association would be restored.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already apprised the House about the decision taken by the Government in regard to the R.P.F. Association. With regard to the employees who were dismissed during the last agitation, my predecessor Shri George Fernandes has said that during his tenure as the Minister of Railways, he had passed an order revoking their dismissal. He had placed this matter before the cabinet also and the cabinet in turn approved the matter. However the date on which the cabinet gave its approval happened to be the date on which that Government fell. Therefore, the President had issued an order to review all such decisions. It was in this light that the then Prime Minister, Shri V.P Singh had rescinded that decision of the cabinet. When we asked the officials as to why this order was not implemented, they replied that the B.J.P. had withdrawn its support to the Government on the day when this matter was approved by the cabinet thereby reducing the Government to the state of nonentity... *(Interruptions)* It would be very difficult to accept all the demands of the employees in the name of R.P.F. When the interim Railway Budget comes for discussion, these demands are going to be raised... *(Interruptions)* Should not we leave some demands for discussion on that day?... *(Interruptions)*... Therefore, I think that the demands be considered on the 5th of march when the Railway Budget is taken up for discussion. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This 14/2 Act should not be equated with other cases. We want a clear and categorical announcement. We want a categorical announcement today.

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: WE WANT TODAY AND JUST now. (*interruptions*)

At this stage Dr. Biplab Dasgupta and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the table

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I request the Leaders of all parties to persuade the Members to go to their seats.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): You prevail upon the Railway Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You all please go to your seats.

(*interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Government has withdrawn the facility and it has not stood the test of the time. As the Government is not accepting the unanimous demand of the House, we stage walk out in protest

12.58 hrs.

At this stage, Shri L.K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janeshwar wants to say something. Please listen to him. You all please resume your seats. Biplab Babu, Prakashji you all please go to your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would like to know what is the difficulty of the Government. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you all please go to your seats? Biplab Babu, take your seat

please...please go to your seats.

Dr. Biplab Das Gupta and some other hon. Members then went back to their seats

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would like to know from this Government: Is the Railway Minister not responding favourably, because he has not got the clearance from the Congress?

13.00 hrs.

I would like to know this. He has shown his concern. He was saying that the Government was concerned for the workers. He has admitted that the decision was taken by Shri George Fernandes. He stated that technically because it fell in the period after the withdrawal of support of BJP the decision could not be implemented. Now, what is the difficulty? Three months have elapsed. He has not referred to any difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER: He knows all these things.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We supported him because we had always taken up the demands of the RPF association. When Mr. Kumaramangalam told us, I said, "I will support you." I wrote to the Prime Minister on this issue also. I did not want him to go on a hunger strike. Now, he has shown a gesture. Now what is going to happen today? It is a question of the future of lives of so many people. (*Interruptions*) I would like to know whether this Government can act independently, on its own. Has it got a mind of its own? Or do they have to get clearance from the Congress (I)? Will they act only when their permission comes? I would like to know this. We want an announcement of the decision here and now. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Even if

they want clearance they have already got their clearance.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House and Parliamentary democracy are the means to solve the problems of the country through meaningful dialogue. The members of opposition are levelling charges against us that we are working under the pressure of congress but it is not true. While doing so they are pressurising us. What will be the decision of Government in this matter? Pressure, whether it is by the opposition or by the ruling party is exerted to find the solution. The Government had to take a decision in the matter of RPF because it was pending for a long time. We never said that it is not being considered or it will not be agreed to.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: You had made an announcement in Kanpur after becoming Minister... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Subhashiniji please allow the Minister to speak.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: We have to discuss in detail all the intricacies that may come in the way of solving a problem. It is true that the attitude of the bureaucracy is well known but they too have their limitations. They have their own style of functioning and understanding. To impose something on them or reject their recommendations would not be good particularly, in respect of a giant organisation like Railways. We members of this House cannot run it on our own. We will have to take their help... (*Interruptions*) If a Minister or a government thinks that the Railways in the country is running at their order, it is wrong. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, just to remind our Railway Minister

I may tell him that I know that technical difficulties do come and could quote my experience; he can benefit from it. (*Interruptions*) I am going to say something which will support him. Unfortunately as soon as we utter your name you feel that we are condemning you. Why do you have a guilty conscience? I am only supporting what Mr. Kumaramangalam has said.

PROF. P. H. KURIEN: What about past history?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Yes, yes, past history and geography, we know everything.

On the 25th I took over the charge as Railway Minister and on the 27th I presented an interim Budget, and I wanted to share with this House that at that time when I consulted the officers and the bureaucrats most of them were of the opinion that after the alterations I was making in the speech while announcing in Parliament, thousands of workers who were retrenched in 1974 would be taken back within six weeks' time, at the same place.

All of those who have been dismissed on account of victimisation 1974 strike, all of them will be taken back within six weeks. When bureaucracy came to know that the Minister is interested in taking them back within six weeks, they completed the operation before that. I must say that all the sections of this House, Congress non-Congress and all of them, accepted that. I do not want to make any allegation. Even those had opposed the strike, in the House said, "we welcome the decision of the Railway Minister to take thousands of people back." We ended their break in service. All increments were continued. No break in service was allowed. Therefore, you can consult, but let the decision be yours. If you rely only on consultations, I will tell you that they will sit on your head. You have seen the entire unani-

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

mous feeling of the House. Whatever may have happened in the past, I do concede that every Member of the Congress Party today also stand by what Mr. Kumaramangalam and Mr. Basudeb Acharia say, there is no difference here. I have not the least doubt that even Members of the Janata Dal (S) are not opposed to this demand. Taking advantage of this unanimous view of this House, please do not go by the technicalities, assure that in a prescribed time you will take the decision and announce it in the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I was saying that ultimately the responsibility of running the railways is that of the railway officials. We think that... (*Interruptions*) I may think that I hold key position in the Government like that of the Railway Minister, but that does not mean that I am not aware of the trials and turbulations of those people. I respect the sentiments expressed by the House in this regard but I have to discuss it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: With whom would you hold discussion? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have said earlier that when we do not associate ourselves with labour movement.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Please first you take your decision, then hold discussion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Earlier they used to fight even if their demand was met. Now when one of the demands have been met, we are discussing in the House the other demand. Earlier the work was done according to the agitation. I have merely said

that please leave something to be announced on 5th when we are going to present the interim Railway Budget. We cannot disclose everything today itself. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are giving notice that if on the 5th a favourable decision is not made, we shall again take up the matter. I hope that atleast you will be able to persuade them to say, yes.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hundreds of people from Manipur have come and sat on a dharna at the Boat Club for the inclusion of Manipuri language in the Eighth Schedule... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow us also to speak about the problems of farmers. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice to you. No doubt you have sent a message that during the Question Hour, the question of tapping the telephone was already replied by the Prime Minister. But I want to remind you that on 6.4.1990, in this very House the issue of telephone tapping was raised. I congratulate Mr. Sathe and others. They also vigorously raised this issue. They insisted that the inquiry has to be conducted. CBI inquiry was announced. The Minister assured about it. Prof. Ranga was a Member of the Constituent Assembly. I checked the old records. When the CBI question came on 3rd March 1965, Prof. Ranga, Member of the

Lok Sabha then demanded that if the Government is not coming forward with the CBI Report, in that case Mr. H.V.Kamath should be allowed to lay it on the Table of the House. I once again repeat the demand that the Prime Minister should lay the CBI Report on the Table of the House. Excerpts are coming. We are reading them in the press. But, we, the Members, are not getting the full report. I am told that Shri Saifuddin has already given a notice that he should be allowed to lay the report on the Table of the House. So I would only want to suggest that his plea should be accepted. There are a number of Speakers who have given the ruling. And I quote the final ruling which was quoted by almost all. It arose out of Feroze Gandhi raising the question of Mundra corruption case. At that time Shri Anantasayanam Aiyangar said that "following the procedure of the court also, my ruling is that so long as any Member of the House is willing to take full responsibility for the authenticity of any secret report I will allow him to lay it on the Table of the House even if it is brought by stealth." Therefore, I request that if the Prime Minister is not prepared to lay it on the Table of the House, any Member of the House who takes the full responsibility for the authenticity of it, should be allowed to do so.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): I have given a notice. And I also gave a true copy of the original CBI Report. I will be duly authenticating the CBI Report. So I may be allowed to lay it on the Table of the House.* (Placed in Library. See No LT—2300/91)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, either allow him or ask the Government to lay it on the Table of the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you standing. Please Sit down.

[English]

SHRIGUMAN MALLODHA (Pali): Once a Member gets it and he authenticates it, there is no secrecy left in that... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is under my consideration.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Why not allow him to lay it now?

MR. SPEAKER: Not now; not at the moment.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I have given due notice... (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Do you want me to read the ruling of the Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: I know that.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Can I lay it now?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can hand it over to us and I will consider it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Can I not lay it now?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is under my consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: When the copy is with the reporters and everybody knows about it what more is to be considered.

*Later on Treated as laid on the Table of the House. (See Bulletin Part II No. 1247 dt. 12.3.91).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand what is there to consider. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not able to understand it. I have to consider it and that is why I have said it is under my consideration. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I am on a point of order. Please look at rule 369.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are raising a point of order on my ruling, I have told Mr. Saifuddin and Prof. Madhu Dandavate that it is under my consideration.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you be seated, please. Shastriji, be seated, please. I have called Subhashiniji.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated, I have not called you. Shastriji, I will call you afterwards.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that the Members whom you have declared as disqualified... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shastri, you are going on speaking without my permission. I am not allowing you to speak. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: I will sit down, but please listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, be seated please.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a question regarding the great impropriety committed by the British High Commission in New Delhi. As you know, mostly all over the world, the media is being doctored to present the point of view of the USA and the U.K. as regards the Gulf war. But a few newspapers and a few journalists in this country have exhibited the courage to discuss the real war aims of the imperialist countries. In this context, I would say that the Deputy High Commissioner of the British High Commission, Mr. Fowler, has committed a great impropriety. If the British Government wanted to make its own views known on any subject it has the liberty to do so by sending its views to a particular newspaper and it has the right to have them published. But for an official of the High Commission to directly write to a journalist of this country, whose views he does not happen to share, and to address him in the most viceregal terms, bringing back memories of the colonial era, beating him and browbeating him, telling him what his job is, telling him how much the imperialists respect international boundaries, telling an Indian journalist what is good for this country, what will be good for the future of this country, this kind of interference and this kind of browbeating simply cannot be tolerated. I would demand from this Government that they ask for Mr. Fowler's recall from the High Commission for the offensive letter that he has written to Mr. Proful Bidwai, a leading journalist of the Times of India which is one of the few Papers that has exposed the world, not only of these imperialists but also of this bootlicking Gov-

ernment that insisted on refuelling U.S. military planes. It was this Paper that carried the story for the first time. I would like to say that the post-war scenario is a frightening scenario for all Third World countries... (*Interruptions*). Please, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. The post-war scenario is a frightening scenario for all Third World countries. In 1947, when we were much weaker than what we are today, when the international situation was more influenced by imperialism, at that time all sections of this country stood up in the fight against imperialism and refused to be cowed-down by them. Today, a new scenario is emerging where America and the rest of the imperialist force wants to impose its own world view on all of us. Unfortunately, there are enough hucksters running this country in collusion with other hucksters who are willing to sell this country, our prestige and our self-respect. Therefore, to protect our national self-respect, I would demand that the Government immediately ask the British Government to recall Mr. Fowler and make it clear that we will not tolerate this kind of interference with our Press.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is an insult to our country. How can an ordinary officer of the British High Commission direct like this?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. M.J. Akbar...

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I am on a point of order. I have no objection if any Member of the British High Commission has uttered any insulting remark to any correspondent... (*Interruptions*) My objection is that she is calling this Government as the bootlicker of the British Government... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): These words may be expunged from the record. They have called the Government as boot-licker of the British Government, we highly object to this. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore): Sir, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you on a point of order?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Yes, I am on a point of order. My point is, Subhash-iniji, the hon. Member of this House, has raised an important issue. I share her views about all the remarks she has made against the Deputy High Commissioner. I do not want to go against it. I share her views. Now, my objection is that the Government of India is not only the Government of the Janata Dal (S), but it is the national government. (*Interruptions*) The Government of India is the Government of the people of this country. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Janardhana Poojary to make his point.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Please hear me. To say that the Government is a government which is boot-licking the foreign government, I strongly object to it. It is an unparliamentary word. It is a statement against the patriotism of every Indian. So I strongly object to that. It should be expunged from the record. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I request you to expunge it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If anything is unparliamentary, I will look into it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.J. AKBAR (Kishanganj): Sir, perhaps you can end the controversy about licking by saying that boots are not the only portion of the anatomy which are licked.

SHRIMATISUBHASHINI ALI: Boots are not part of the anatomy. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. J. AKBAR: But there was a decision previous to that which Mrs. Subhashini Ali might want to consider and that is the open and unprecedented use of the air corridor which was allowed by the V.P. Singh Government. It is there the subservience to the vested interests had started and the country was betrayed. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You were talking about the letter. How did you jump on this topic from the letter.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.J. AKBAR: Today, the British diplomats display the arrogance to use extremely intemperate language and I personally have no doubt that Mr. Proful Bidwai is not going to be browbeaten or indeed any newspaper is going to be browbeaten by a diplomat's letter. This letter, by itself, is only an exercise in intemperance and an exercise of gratuitous insult which we can ignore. But what we cannot ignore is the arrogance that is inbuilt into the letter; what we cannot ignore is the arrogance which is born out of a perception of power by the West and by the forces which today are displaying this arrogance not only with Indian journalism, but on the ground in the Gulf. Today's news itself

about war is a classic example of imperial arrogance which we as a nation, across all the sections of the House cannot afford to ignore. When we look at the fact as to what is happening on the ground, what more can Saddam Hussein do? We have all agreed that the invasion of Kuwait was wrong. He has accepted that if there was a mistake, it has been corrected; his troops are going back and yet the arrogance of imperial power will not stop the war that it launched for reasons which were far beyond the mandate of the UN. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please conclude. A number of Members are raising their hands.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.J. AKBAR: The reason why we should be careful is because I fear that we have entered an age where the Western alliance is going to pick and choose those United Nations Security Council Resolutions that it wants to pursue. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAUL R. MANTOSH (Nominated-Anglo-Indian): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are talking of the letter, but he is talking about the international situation. Let him speak about the letter which Mr. Subhashini Ali has referred to and not on the Gulf situation. Please confine him.

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted him. He will conclude soon. You cannot dictate a Member. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. J. AKBAR: Sir, I would quote from the letter if you like.

MR. SPEAKER: No; please do not quote.

[English]

SHRI M.J. AKBAR: Sir, what I want to draw your attention is the fact that the doors of invasion have been opened not only in Iraq, but they have been opened all over the world and if we do not understand what it means, if we do not realise as to how to protect ourselves, then tomorrow Kashmir is going to be vulnerable, tomorrow Punjab is going to be vulnerable. The House should note the fact of Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann's offer on the Gulf; these are linkages which are being established between the people of Punjab and the Western forces. (Interruptions)

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Akbar, please listen to his point of order first. You please sit down at the moment.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if somebody wants to speak in Hindi, he is not allowed to do so and if someone speaks in English, he is allowed to speak. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this sort of things are going on in the House. If a person wants to express himself in his mother-tongue, he is not permitted by you to do so, whereas the rest of the people who speak good English, are allowed to speak without any consideration of their behaviour.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI M. J. AKBAR: Sir, I also feel that this is an opportunity to remind the House of the sentiments expressed by Shri Jyoti Basu in the West Bengal Assembly. We welcome the sentiments expressed by him. We welcome the analysis that is expressed there. We feel that a common concern for national security can be arrived at on those lines.

[Translation]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is misfortune of the country that the crops of lakhs of farmers of this country have been destroyed by the hailstorm during the last week. We the representatives of the agriculturists are sitting in the House and we have been elected by them, we talk so loud about the agriculturists, but I am sorry that during the last hailstorm...

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: There has been terrible destruction in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and my state, Rajasthan. This is the harvest season of Rabi crop and the farmers have put in their hard labour and fertilizers etc. they have protected their crops with the help of insecticides and pesticides and they have almost sacrificed their entire household on it. I have just visited the recent hailstorm affected area. I am getting telegrams from the people of that area. The peasants of that area due to the shock of this loss, have become mad and most of them have been admitted to the hospitals, I regret to say that our Deputy Prime Minister went to Haryana and Punjab and announced that the farmers will be given relief and will be given compensation I would like to point out paid that we have so many representative, we have the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, who is Agriculture Minister also and represents Rajasthan; but I feel sorry that he

[Sh. Shopat Singh Makkasar]

could remember only Haryana and Punjab and the agriculturists of these places. He is the Agriculture Minister of the Government of India and not a Minister of any particular State. So he should think of the ruined peasants of Rajasthan also and he should make an announcement in this House for giving relief to the farmers of Rajasthan. Equal norms should be adopted for the whole of the country in this respect, whether it may be Punjab or Haryana or some other State. I am sorry to state that you are giving compensation to Punjab because of terrorists' fear and to Haryana because of your own Govt. is in that State. But what about the remaining people of the country. Have they committed any crime?

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: I am concluding. Hours are wasted on such questions as have no meaning. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you one thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. Say the final words now.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Sir, after all who will look after the interests of the crores of agriculturists of this country? The Agriculture Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister does not bother about these people. Who will take care of those remaining areas which have been ruined equally due to the hailstorms...

MR. SPEAKER: You are repeating the statements.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: I seek your protection. Please convey the words of those peasants to this Government, and to the Agriculture Minister and

direct him to make an announcement here to that effect. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before you, I... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would only submit that if the zero hour is continuing like this, you please allow lunch break at least. This is very unkind.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dinesh Singh

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): The difficulty is that, because of the voting, we have all to be here. There is a very important issue. Now, we do not know when this is to be taken up. There was never a voting between 1.00 PM and 3.00 PM. This was the practice in the House. Even if the next issue is taken up, it can be voted only after 3.00 PM.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: We will come to it after ten minutes.

PROF. VIJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that the Government have revised electricity rates in Delhi which would fetch revenue of Rs. 350 crore. 166 percent increase has been made in the domestic electricity charges. 68 per cent in non-domestic, 66 per cent in industrial and 33 per cent in agricultural electricity. The total revenue earned by DESU comes to about 600 crore rupee while present revision in electricity charges would fetch 350 crore rupees. It has burdened each family in Delhi with five thousand rupees per annum. In Delhi power facility is provided to half of the population and the rest are deprived of it.

About 15 lakh jhuggi and jhopari dwellers and khokha owners and unauthorised colonies do not get regular power supply. Inspectors get their palms greased and allow power theft to take place, whereas this money should go to the Corporation. The Government are increasing the tax and electricity charges to extract the money from people. Since the time the Congress party lent their support to the present Government. An additional burden of Rs 350 crores has been put on Delhi. I think it will cause loss to people, industries will also be ruined. I would like the Government to withdraw it, rather they should check the practice of power theft. Only then this amount can go to the Public exchequer.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pallam Raju to speak.

SHRI M. M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ever since this Session began, I have been trying to raise a very important issue. I am sure the whole House will be equally concerned about it. But, unfortunately the real issue seems to be losing its eminence.

The issue is the apparent shortage of diesel oil and LPG cylinders because of which much public inconvenience is being caused. Long queues of vehicles, primarily transportation lorries and agricultural tractors, are being seen everywhere all over the country.

What is not clear is whether really there is a shortage or whether this apparent shortage is being created due to hoarding.

I want the Government to come out with a statement assuring the nation that there is really no shortage. But if there is a shortage, I want the agricultural sector to be spared.

13.39 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Naik to speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): I have given a breach of privilege motion against the Prime Minister. Are you asking me to speak on that issue or, are you asking me to speak on the issue of shortage of edible oil in Maharashtra for which I have given a notice?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not on the agenda. As far as the privilege issue is concerned, you will have to get the consent.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, in Maharashtra and particularly in Bombay edible oil has not been available for the last several months. The total consumption of edible oil in the state is about 15500 metric tonnes whereas no supply from Central Government in the months of December and January has been received. National Dairy Development Board produces Dhara but that is not available in Maharashtra. That is why shortage of edible oils is being felt there. Therefore, the Central Government should provide the same to Maharashtra. In my opinion the Hon. Prime Minister should invite the Chief Minister and the MPs of that state to discuss the matter and make arrangements to supply the edible oil otherwise tension will continue to prevail in Maharashtra. The Prime Minister should, therefore, take action immediately in this regard.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kot-tayam): The Youth Congress workers all over the country had collected more than five thousand bottles of blood for the war victims.

[Sh. Ramesh Chennithala]

Unfortunately the Government has not taken any steps to take these blood bottles. I have contacted the External Affairs Minister and soon I had written to the Prime Minister also to take care of the blood which we have already collected. One unfortunate thing is that Mr. M. L. Gupta, the Director of the Blood Bank here in Delhi is not at all ready to take that blood which is collected and brought from different parts of the country. This is a very serious situation. The blood which is collected by the Youth Congress workers all over the country is lying with us. So I request the Government to take urgent steps to send these blood bottles to the war victims.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for privilege motion.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, Shastriji, please sit down. You cannot speak on it at this moment.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI:
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something on the notice I gave during the zero hour. My submission is that since the outbreak of gulf war acute shortage of diesel and petrol is being felt and many industrial units are lying closed as a result thereof. Four union leaders were dismissed in Coal India (SECL) of Suhagpur unit due to which go slow agitation is going on and there is a great resentment among the labourers. About ten thousand labourers are on hunger strike. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to intervene in the matter and those

who were dismissed from service should be reinstated.

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR (Quilon): I want to bring to the attention of the Government a very important issue facing 1.7 lakh Indians, including 1.2 lakh Keralites who have been repatriated from the Gulf before and during the Gulf war. As you are aware, their passport facilities have been suspended. And also Rs. 9000 have been collected from each of them. Now they are eager—now that the situation in the Gulf is going to be normalised, Iraq is withdrawing from Kuwait and Amir has taken over technically at least, these 120000 people in Kerala who had left the Gulf are eager to get back as soon as possible. We request the Government—all Indians who have been repatriated request—that the passport facilities which have been suspended should immediately be re-established so that they are free to travel and take up the job as and when it is available. Otherwise these jobs are going to others. These jobs are going to be controlled by the United States and their allies. Contracts have already been awarded. Some of repatriates are not able to repay Rs. 9000 immediately. So, we also request that the bond period may be extended. After they get the job, they can repay Rs. 9,000 as and when they are able to earn their wages. (*Interruptions*) They are going to earn the money in foreign exchange. This amount and the employment that will be created is hundred times more valuable than Rs. 9000. So, the Government has to be lenient and they should issue the orders immediately.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Papers to be Laid on the Table.