

raised by the American Intelligence experts. May I have that assurance from the Government so that we can function with dignity, sense of independence and self-respect? Would the Prime Minister assure the House on that score?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: I do not know how many times I am to assure the House and the country. I have already done it. Is it necessary to do so everytime some one asks for it.

Let me tell you what I have to say. I have heard you with patience. There is no question of using any device against anybody. We do not believe in that kind of a thing. That does not mean that we are not prudent or we do not take precautions. But we are not going to act in an unfriendly manner to any country whatsoever even if that country is not friendly. We will not imitate them. We will try to see that they become friendly and also help us to protect our own interests. That is how we wish to proceed in this matter and other matters. I do not know what other assurance my hon'ble friend wants. We are truly and properly non-aligned and we want to be friends with all.

13.5 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SEVENTY-FIRST AND SEVENTY-SECOND REPORTS

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Iaukki)
I beg to present the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee:—

- (1) Seventy-first Report on paragraphs 7, 13 and 14 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1975-

76, Union Government (Posts and Telegraphs) relating to the Ministry of Communications.

- (2) Seventy-second Report on paragraph 28 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1975-76, Union Government (Civil) on Import of Rapeseed and Rapeseed Oil from Canada to the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Cooperation.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

FIFTH REPORT

DR BAPU KALDATE (Aurangabad): I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House

13.51 hrs.

AIR (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the aforesaid purpose, of Boards for the prevention and control of air pollution, for conferring on and assigning to such Boards powers and functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution, for the establishment, with a view to carrying out the aforesaid purpose, of Boards for

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 17-4-76.

[Mr. Speaker]

the prevention and control of air pollution, for conferring on and assigning to such Boards powers and functions relating thereto and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I introduce the Bill.

13.57 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED MANIPULATION BY THE MULTINATIONALS LIKE WIMCO LTD TO SCUTTLE THE JANATA GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thana): Sir, I am constrained to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House the manipulations by the multinationals like Wimco to scuttle the Janata Government's industrial policy and demand Government's immediate and necessary action to counter the anti-national move of the multi-national concerns.

The aim of the Janata Government is to give employment to the maximum number of persons so that the courage of unemployment is eliminated and means of livelihood is assured to curb one and all. To this effect, the Government desire to curb the activities of the Multinational concerns who use the most sophisticated machinery to produce more at the cost of millions of workers. Their only aim is to make profit and to transfer the amounts by dubious means to their father-lands.

Wimco Limited Factory at Ambarnath in Maharashtra had over 3000 workers in 1956-57 on their roll. Now the production in the factory increased several-fold, but the number of workmen were progressively reduced to 800. This was made possible by the active connivance of our previous Governments. The Janata Govern-

ment has allotted the match manufacturing process to small scale or cottage industry section, so that the optimum number of persons (men and women) could be employed. The notice is served on units like Messrs. WIMCO Limited, Ambarnath to progressively reduce the Match making activities and concentrate on other products which could not be manufactured in India by Indian concerns.

Now, WIMCO Limited, Ambarnath in Maharashtra in contravention of this declared policy of the Government has imported a machine, the same is to go into production of Cardboard Match Boxes soon. This machine when commissioned, will be able to produce cardboard match boxes for the factory at Ambarnath and also for the other units of the company as well. Moreover, another machine of the same nature is also expected soon. The one machine alone could eliminate the need of 300 workmen in the Ambarnath factory. Likewise another 1500 persons working in the various other factories of WIMCO Limited will also be thrown out of work. From the present strength the workforce could be reduced to 500 i.e. this company only in their Ambarnath factory has progressively reduced 2500 of the workforce within 20 years. When the other factories are also taken into account, the reduction in manforce will run to several thousands.

I am at a loss to understand how permission for the import of the above machinery was allowed?

To pacify the present employees, the company has outwardly assured, that no workmen will be retrenched. But Sir, every year about 200 workmen will retire from service and no replacement shall be thought needed. The work force in spite of the assurance will thus be reduced automatically. I would, therefore, request the Government to nip their nefarious activities in the bud.