

15.38 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) MINUTES

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUP (Delhi Sadar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table minutes of the sittings of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table held on 6th October, 7th November and 29th December, 1977 and 9th May, 1978.

(ii) REPORT

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report of the Committee on Paper Laid on the Table.

ASSENT TO BILL

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1978 passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 24th April, 1978.

15.48 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF THE EMPLOYEES OF NEWSPAPER ESTABLISHMENTS TO GO ON STRIKE

श्री कविराम वर्मा : (दुरीना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अधिलक्षणीय लोक-सहृदय के निम्नलिखित विषय की और संसदीय कार्य तथा मन मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिखाना चाहता हूँ और उन के मार्गदर्शकता हूँ कि वे इस सम्बन्ध में अपना कर्तव्य करें—

“समाचार-पत्र संस्थानों के कर्मचारियों के वेतन बढ़ाने की अपनी माँगें मनवाने के लिए हड़ताल करने का कथित निर्णय।”

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): As I

told the House in reply to Question No. 7591 that I answered on 20th April, 1978, the National Confederation of Newspaper and News Agency Employees Organisations have sent us a copy of a Resolution adopted by a Convention of the newspaper employees that was held in Calcutta on the 28th March, 1978. The Resolution, among other things, authorised the Confederation “to chalk out a programme of agitation culminating in an indefinite strike”.

Apart from this, we have received no reports of any specific decision by newspaper employees to go on strike to press their demands for wage revision. However, there was a token strike on the 11th May, 1978. By certain sections of newspaper employees, in Delhi in response to a Call for general strike given by some political groups over various issues. The question of wage boards was referred to as one of the issues in the notices served by some of the Unions while one Union disassociated itself from the strike. This strike was only a token strike that lasted for a day.

As the House is aware, two separate wage Boards were constituted for non-journalists and working journalists, on the 11th June, 1975 and the 6th February, 1978, respectively. Government notified interim wage rates on the 1st April, 1977, after consulting the Wage Boards and the Boards had started public hearing on the question of the final wage structure.

In December, 1977 the representatives of the employers wrote to Government to say that they were withdrawing from the Wage Boards, as their Organisations desired them to do so. Consequent on their withdrawal the Wage Boards cancelled subsequent public hearings. Government is keen that the work of the Wage Board, should be resumed and completed expeditiously so that a revised wage structure comes into force in the newspaper establishments. To find a solution to the