

13.50 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) HEALTH OF SHRI NAGABHUSHAN PATNAIK

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I am raising the question of M. Nagabhushan Patnaik, who is being lodged in the Visakhapatnam jail for the last several years. His health condition is abnormally deteriorating and it has reached a dangerous level. Therefore, I bring it to the notice of the hon Health Minister that, in spite of an order from the Andhra Pradesh High Court that he should be transferred to the Hyderabad hospital, the Andhra Pradesh Governor, the bureaucratic officers and the Jail Superintendent, all of them, have colluded to prevent him from being transferred to the Hyderabad Hospital where at least some treatment could have been given to him.

A letter has been addressed to the Prime Minister, to the Home Minister and also to the Health Minister—the letter is dated 15th April 1973—by Shri Ratan Das, Secretary of Utkal Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Bakhraabad, Cuttack. The whole of Orissa, the entire democratic minded people are standing behind this issue; they have demanded his immediate release. Apart from that, commutation of the death sentence has been demanded from all quarters, and 200 Members of Parliament have also signed it. I will read out one portion of the letter written by Shri Ratan Das:

"You might be aware that Nagabhushan is battling with death in his condemned cell, afflicted by serious stomach ulcer. He lost about 30 pounds in two months. Pitying his condition, on a petition by a well-wisher, the Andhra Pradesh High Court ordered his transfer to Hyderabad so that he could get proper treatment at the Osmania

Hospital there. But, unfortunately, the Andhra Pradesh Government has not complied with the order, pleading that Nagabhushan's condition was not so serious as to need treatment in Hyderabad. This amounts to killing Nagabhushan through deliberate neglect, we think."

This has been stated by no less a person than Shri Ratan Das who believes in Gandhism, a total devotee of Gandhi. What is the conspiracy going on? Such a devoted young man is not lacking in patriotism, who is all-out to defend the country, all-out for reconstruction of the country, all-out for socialism...

MR. SPEAKER: The simple point was, the attention of the Minister was to be drawn to his health condition.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (All-pore): The simple point is that Andhra Pradesh is now under President's rule. Are they going to comply or not comply with the order of the High Court, ordering the transfer of Shri Nagabhushan to Hyderabad for treatment at the Osmania Hospital? Do they want to finish him off in the jail? People are fighting for commutation of the death sentence, but they want to finish him off in the jail.

SHRI D K PANDA: It is also stated in that letter:

"The Superintendent of the Visakhapatnam Jail, Mr. Kapadia, has been acting mala fide in the matter from the very beginning. When the High Court ordered his transfer to Hyderabad, the Superintendent tried to transfer him to the Rajahmundry jail. The local medical authorities are colluding with the Jail authorities to deny proper treatment to Nagabhushan. Several telegrams from political prisoners to the State authorities pleading for Nagabhushan's transfer to Hyderabad were not transmitted by the Superintendent and this proves his mala fide in the matter."

Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether immediate steps are going to be taken to bring him immediately to Delhi for treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Secondly with regard to all the ill treatment and conspiracies being indulged in by the Superintendent inside the jail, the only remedy will be his transfer to Delhi and proper medical treatment at the Medical Institute.

Thirdly, when there is a High Court, order, why should it have been violated?

The matter may be referred to the Home Ministry for an answer here and now.

MR. SPEAKER: May I invite your attention to one thing? Every day this 'Zero Hour' which was only meant for half an hour or so, actually goes beyond 1 O'clock and sometimes beyond 2 p.m. also and this is a very undesirable practice that is taking place.... (Interruptions) Everybody you do it. You go right upto 1.30 p.m.—and today 2 p.m. After all, there should be a limit.

श्री हुसैन अन्व कछबाय : (मुश्ना)
आप चाहते हैं कि हम यहाँ चुपचाप बैठे रहें ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चुपचाप की बात नहीं। लेकिन यह हाउस है हाऊस का कुछ प्रोसीजर है। यह क्या बात हुई कि इन्हीं बातों में पड़े रहे.....

श्री हुसैन अन्व कछबाय : आप हो उलझते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ जाइये, जो बात सही भी बताई जाती है उस में भी सिर झड़ाते हैं। अब देखिये दो बज रहे हैं। आज की शिफाई पर शाम को मिनिस्टर ने जबाब देना था वह आज नहीं दे सकेंगे।

The time is so short. There are so many speakers and the time available is not so much. So, I have allowed the Minister—because a request came from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister—that the Minister of Agriculture will reply tomorrow, not to-day, because there is no time left.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: No reply from the hon. Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: What you have raised will be conveyed to him and I think he should come with some statement.

13.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

(ii) STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES OF
MAZAGON DOCKS LTD.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Rs. 51 per day is a lot of money. I want to give the money's worth to the people of the country.

Nearly 800 employees belonging to the clerical and subordinate staff of Mazagon Dock have gone on strike since 8th April, to protest against the policy of the management in respect of the award of the Industrial Tribunal, which had recommended a substantial wage rise. It will be recalled that both the Unions as well as the management had jointly approached the Tribunal under Sec. 10(2) of the Industrial Disputes Act and it is, therefore, amazing that the Management should now file an appeal before the High Court in order to defer and deny the substantial wage rise secured by the employees.

The Mazagon Dock Ltd is a public sector concern in the Ministry of Defence Production and it must set an example before the employers in the private sector in respect of an award by the third party. Instead, it seems