

16.47 hrs.

STATEMENT re. NOTICE BY MEMBERS OF INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM FOR WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT

अध्यक्ष सहोदय : इससे पहले कि मैं अगली आइटम पर डिबेट द, आपको पता होगा कि आज सुबह जो हाकी टीम ने फैमला दिया है कि वह नहीं खेलेगी, उस पर हमारे कुछ सदस्यों ने सवाल उठाया था, बाजपेयी जी, दास मुंशी इत्यादि ने। उसका मिनिस्टर साहब जवाब देना चाहते हैं।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): At the request of the President, Indian Hockey Federation, Shri M. A. Ramaswamy and on the recommendation of the All India Council of Sports, the Government of India have cleared the Indian Hockey Team to participate in the World Cup Hockey Tournament being held at Kuala Lumpur from 1st March, 1975. The necessary financial sanctions are being issued for the team which I hope will leave as soon as the formalities are completed. The President of the Indian Hockey Federation has recommended the same team including the manager, coach and captain which was trained and selected under the auspices of the Indian Olympic Association at Chandigarh.

16.49 hrs.

DISCUSSION re.-JUTE WORKERS STRIKE IN WEST BENGAL

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up the discussion on the jute workers' strike in West Bengal.

Shri Indrajit Gupta

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: (Alipore): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving us an opportunity of having a discussion on this very important issue in place of the call attention notice which you had originally admitted.

I may say at the outset that this

strike which is to-day in its 46th day is above all an industrial dispute, a dispute between employers and the workmen and I am well aware of the fact that both the Commerce Minister and the Labour Minister can, if they choose, take refuge behind the technical plea that the State Government is the proper authority to deal with industrial disputes. (Interruptions) I hope, Sir, that these Ministers will not seek to take refuge behind the plea that the West Bengal Government was seized of the matter and therefore they had nothing further to do with this. I may remind the House that in 1969 and 1970 on these two occasions similar general strikes in the West Bengal jute industry took place. The two negotiations to bring about a settlement, the drafting of the final arrangement and the signing of the agreement took place not in Calcutta but here in Delhi. It was at the initiative of the Central Government the then Labour Minister and the then Commerce Minister that both the parties the Indian Jute Mills Association and the representatives of the various Unions were called to Delhi for discussions and in the 1970 strike they were called on no less than three occasions during the pendency of the strike and then the matter was settled here. The agreement was signed here.

So I want to know this. This is my first question. I want to know what has transpired between now and then to make the Central Government so utterly indifferent and callous in its attitude towards this prolonged dispute in an industry which is the main foreign-exchange earning industry of this country so that they go on saying that the West Bengal Government is the competent authority to deal with it and they have nothing much to do in the matter. This change we notice, Sir since last year. The 1974 strike and the 1975 strike have been dealt with on an entirely different basis, with an entirely different modality, to the strikes of 1960 and 1970. Therefore I charge this Government which is