

[Shri M. L. Sondhi]

other way is there in a democracy to provide evidence of a unified will on the part of the employees. The right to strike is a sacred right in the annals of mankind and we will not be brow-beaten by suggestions that we are not patriotic. We are fully patriotic and we believe that the strike is an index of our will to have a bright future in this country.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House takes note of the Report of the Dearness Allowance Commission on the question of the grant of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees in future, laid on the Table of the House on the 6th June, 1967."

The motion was negatived.

Shri Nath Pal: Sir, what is it that you put to the vote? It only says that the House takes note. The procedure is quite wrong. I think that Dr. Ram Subhag Singh knows that such a motion is never objected to. It is the first time that the House has voted down such a motion.

Mr. Speaker: We go to the next item ..(Interruptions.) I had put the motion to the vote and I had declared that the Noes have it.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Sir, the Railway Minister is making a statement now, I believe?

श्री रघु निन्दे : अध्यक्ष महोदय, नियम 342 के मातहत मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। नियम 342 इस प्रकार है:

"A motion that the policy or situation or statement or any other matter be taken into consideration shall not be put to the vote of the House,..."

An hon. Member: it has been agreed.
Several hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: When too many Members get up, when he wants to make his point, it does help anyone. Allow him two minutes; I will give my opinion. You are not really helping me by standing like this. The hon. Member has referred to

rule 342. Meanwhile, the others can look into the rules. It is not this rule which applies, but there is another rule.

श्री मधु लिम्बे : यही तो मैं कह रहा था तो इन्होंने विरोध काहे के लिए किया ?

Mr. Speaker: This would not apply. I have already put it to the vote.

श्री मधु लिम्बे : लेकिन यह गलत है, उसी वक्त मैंने कहा था लेकिन आप ने हां और नां उस पर लिया।

Mr. Speaker: It is all right. I have put to the vote.

You cannot raise it now, after it has been put to the vote.

Some hon. Members rose—

श्री मधु लिम्बे : प्रोसीडिन्स से इस बोट को खत्म किया जाय फिर मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं होगा। अध्यक्ष महोदय, कार्यवाही से मतदान को खत्म किया जाय।

Shri N. Dandekar: The motion is to take note of the thing. But they have taken a vote on it; it is a mistake. There is some error in the procedure.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri C. M. Poonacha.

17.52 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. SECURITY OF PASSENGERS IN HOWRAH-KHARAGPUR SECTION OF S. E. RAILWAY

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): There have been sporadic cases of looting of passengers between Bauria and Deulati stations on Howrah-Kharagpur section, and since June 1967 this Section has been badly affected by the hold-up of trains for various reasons. In view of the incidents of rowdiness in the Howrah-Kharagpur suburban areas, escorting of most of the passenger trains has been started by three Companies of the Railway Protection Special Force

which were drafted to assist the West Bengal State Police.

On 31-7-67, when there was a mass demonstration at Deulati and Bauria in connection with the Howrah Bundh agitation, the Superintendent, Railway Police, Howrah arranged for escorting of more trains with Government Railway Police.

On 31-7-67 and 2-8-67, 318 Down Puri-Howrah Passenger was affected due to attacks by miscreants on passengers, and some of them were robbed of their belongings. The Government Railway Police escorts took prompt action and made recoveries of the stolen property, arrested three persons red-handed and effected subsequent arrest of 12 others.

There was another incident on 4-8-67 on Puri-Howrah passenger in which the Manager of a daily newspaper "Jana-shakti" was assaulted while assisting the officers of the Civil Supply Department in recovering smuggled rice. The Government Railway Police took prompt action and arrested six persons.

In all, there were 4 incidents of this nature on the Howrah-Khargpur Section between Bauria and Deulati, a distance of 27 Kilometres, and according to the West Bengal Police authorities, these incidents were not engineered by anti-Oriya hooligans or goondas. From the very nature of the incidents which are of brief duration and did not result in any serious hold up of trains, it is difficult to state that any organised gang is behind these happenings. The West Bengal Police authorities consider these incidents to be of a purely sporadic nature.

Pickets have been posted at various stations and all mail, express and passenger trains on Khargpur-Howrah section are being escorted by Government Railway Police assisted by Railway Protection Special Force escorts. There has been no incident on this Section after 4-8-67.

A number of students assembled at Cuttack Station on 9-8-67 and demonstrated against alleged interference with life and property of people of Oriya during hold-up of trains in West Bengal. At

10-20 hours on 10-8-67, Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa arrived at Cuttack and read a message from the Chief Minister of West Bengal and an appeal from the Chief Minister of Orissa to the crowd collected at Cuttack Station. The Chief Minister of West Bengal in his message had condemned these attacks on passengers and assured that the West Bengal Government would take all necessary precautions to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

As a result of the student demonstrations in Cuttack and other places in Orissa, trains could not pass through Cuttack and a number of them had to be cancelled and some trains have had to be diverted to Howrah and Madras by longer routes.

Since 11-8-67 (Friday) 5-40 A.M., the normal train services through Cuttack have been resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Both the Orissa Government and West Bengal Government are making efforts to bring some peace. Any question irritating either Bengal or Orissa will only bring about a deterioration. Normally after a minister's statement, I do not allow questions. But today being the last day, I do not mind allowing two or three questions. But I would request members to be careful in putting their questions. The Minister has said that both the Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Orissa are doing something. If any further information is necessary, you may put a question.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Bhubaneswar): We are grateful to you, Sir, for allowing this statement to be made. We do not want any bad feeling to be created. We want the situation to improve. But the facts stated by the minister are not correct. Sarees were removed from the body of the women. It was not a general kind of thing; only the Oriya travelling public were selected for that treatment. So far as looted property is concerned, this has not been given back to the passengers concerned. The looted property should be given back and compensation should be paid; and, The Minister should assure that such things are not repeated.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): Sir, we are getting frantic telegrams and letters with the signatures of the persons who have been affected. The most unfortunate part of it is that the victims of hooliganism are the people from Orissa travelling in passenger trains. They do not affect the express or mail trains. It is very clear from these letters that there is a reign of terror and the local police has been most inactive. The railway protection force has completely failed to give them protection and as a reaction to it, the people in Orissa are very much agitated. We do not want that they should behave like this, because in spite of three years of consecutive drought, 80,000 tons of paddy have been supplied to Bengal. Under these circumstances, when we hear that those who are attacking the passenger shout. *Under Marco, Chal ante dichena*, all these are very very provocative.

I request you to convey our feelings to the Government and the linguistic Minority Commission in Allahabad should be immediately contacted. He should proceed there, look into the matter and ensure that the minority community there is not persecuted. Secondly, adequate protection should be given to all the passengers travelling in that section of the SE Railway.

18 hrs.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Sir, I am glad that both the Governments of West Bengal and Orissa have taken steps immediately. We do not want this disturbance to develop into a racial conflict or a communal conflict. All that I want to impress upon the Railway Minister is this. There is no doubt that the elements who are responsible for such activities are smugglers, who were carrying out smuggling of rice from Orissa. Now, because—the Government of Orissa has been vigilant on that point, they are indulging in this activity. It has been stated in a petition to the Chief Minister of Bengal that there is a gang called "Babu" which is working behind it. They create all this mischief particularly in the railway trains Nos. 3 and 18—Puri Passenger. There they do all these things. I want the Railway Minister to give protection to the passengers. He must impress

upon the Government of West Bengal or take it upon his own Ministry to enquire about this gang, have them arrested and punished. Only then protection can be afforded to the passengers. We want safety to the railway passengers travelling from Howrah to Orissa.

Shri S. Kundu (Balasore): Sir, these things have happened just near my constituency. The Railway Minister has made a statement. All of us condemn such hooliganism. We wholeheartedly condemn these things. These things should not occur. There is no question of any State or party in this. The Railway Protection Force is not doing anything. This thing has been there much earlier. The Railway Protection Force has sat silent all along.

Secondly, Shri Panigrahi made a triumphant walk-out yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: You do not do it.

Shri S. Kundu: These things originated from the smugglers, people who were smuggling rice and illicit liquor. These smugglers were those who kept the former government in power. Since the Government is trying to strictly enforce the law these people are not getting a free scope for smuggling. They are now generating this sort of trouble. I am not going to say that the Congress Party are the representatives of smugglers, but the fact remains that it is these smugglers bordering those areas who are creating this trouble. Now he is making a triumphant walk-out because the Opposition overnment is there.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirappalli): He is partly responsible.

Shri A. Dipa (Phulbani): Sir, I have here a copy of a representation where it is said:

"In recent days miscreants in groups of 30's and 40's are attacking with daggers, iron rods and soda bottles and snatching away all belongings or Oriya passengers especially to the extent of daily used dresses. They have also the audacity to outrage the modesty of helpless ladies to the extent of taking away their sarees worn and ornaments

over their bodies. Besides, that they inflict serious injuries to passengers and shouting slogans such as—*Ude-der Maro* and *Kengo chal ante dichenā*”

Shri Srinibas Misra (Cuttack): While we are gratified to hear about the efforts of the government to arrive at a compromise for solving the situation, there are some points which require clarification. The persons who were harassed and looted got down at the station and went to the GRP to lodge complaints. It is reported that they refused to receive any information or complaints and these poor people were instructed to go from station to station back to Howrah in order to lodge their complaints. The Minister has not said anything on this point.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar (Sambalpur): We are told that the Chief Minister has stated that he would verify the facts. But it is a fact that those persons who were affected by the looting went to the police station to record their statements; their complaints were not at all recorded. Then, how is it that the Chief Minister is going to verify the facts? Would the hon. Minister do something to verify the facts?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: It is really unfortunate that some of these unsocial elements who resort to unlawful activities often times create situations which bring in other extraneous problems also into the picture. As my hon. friends have mentioned, this is entirely due to the operation of unsocial elements who resort to lawlessness, rowdism and smuggling. In the course of that, some poor passengers have become the victims of their rowdism and acts of lawlessness. It is true that some valuable properties were stolen and the travelling passengers were harassed. It is also a fact that a few of them were Oriyas. But this does not mean that it is a sort of organised attack against a particular class. It is not so. Incidentally, the travellers who were travelling in this particular train were subjected to rowdism and acts of lawlessness.

The Government Railway Police, which is charged with the responsibility of

maintaining law and order, has immediately acted, promptly taken action and registered cases, apprehended some culprits red-handed and about 21 persons have been arrested already and full further action is proceeding against these people. Cases have been registered and criminal proceedings are going on against these people. Further investigations are also being made. This had some reaction in Orissa. With the kind and prompt intervention of the Chief Minister of Orissa and the assurance given by the Chief Minister of Bengal, conditions have returned to normalcy, train services have been resumed and we hope that further recurrence of such incidents will be prevented.

18.08 hrs.

CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Shukla.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): The object of this Bill is.....

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore): On what subject is he speaking?

श्री मधु लिमये: (मुंगेर) यह क्या है? यह घाटें पेपर पर है या नहीं?

Mr. Speaker: Will you all kindly sit down? When I occupied the Chair at 3-30 p.m. it was clearly stated that since hon. Members were particular and anxious that the Report of the Dearness Allowance Commission should be discussed, it can be taken up first but, after that, the Central Industrial Security Force Bill will be taken up. It is there in the records. There is no question of giving precedence to anything. In that case, that would have got precedence over the Dearness Allowance Commission Report. But I gave preference to that Report.

श्री मधु लिमये: कौसे प्रिफरेंस मिल सकता है? मैं इस के ऊपर प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर उठा रहा हूँ।

Shri Indrajit Gupta rose—

Mr. Speaker: What is your point of order?