

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI M. B. RANA *In the Chair*]

RE. RETRENCHMENT IN CERTAIN DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENTS

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I want to make a submission on a very important matter, Sir. The whole question is this. This morning, myself, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu and other's have tabled a call attention notice regarding the apprehended retrenchment in some of the Ordnance clothing factories. These defence installations are situated at Shahjahanpur, Kanpur and Avadi where nearly 3000 workers have been declared surplus only because the workload was transferred to the private sector against the assurance of the hon. Minister to the House. This Government claims to be a socialist Government. They talk of Bank nationalisation whereas the workload in the ordnance factories is transferred to the private sector. I would only request you to kindly convey our feelings to the hon. Defence Minister.

Sir, it is a matter for regret that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not here. I do not know whether his assistant is here. Somebody should convey our feelings to the Defence Minister and let him make a statement on this because there is going to be a strike simultaneously in all the five ordnance factories. I can tell you as President of all India Defence Employees' Federation that there is going to be a retrenchment in ordnance clothing factories on account of the transfer of workload in favour of the private sector.

श्री आजे करनेच्छीज (बम्बई-दक्षिण) : सभापति महोदय, हम भी इस का समर्थन करते हैं। आप मंत्री महोदय से कहें, कि इस पर तत्काल यहाँ आ कर आश्वासन दें।

SHRI SHEO NARAIN (Basti) : This is a very important issue, Sir. Government should take immediate action and carry out the assurance given to this House.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE (Ratnagiri) : I support it. I am also a Vice-President of the All India Defence Employees Federation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no regular motion before the House. There should be proper notice of the motion and you may see the Speaker and if he allows, I have no objection.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I wrote a letter to the Speaker. I can assure you, Sir, that I do not generally raise anything unless I write to the Speaker. The Defence Minister must be asked to make a statement on this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your call attention notice has been disallowed by the Speaker. However, in spite of that, if you want to bring it to the notice of the House, you first speak to the Speaker before you raise it here.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, on a point of personal explanation. I can assure you, Sir, that I do not raise irrelevant matters. Sir, this is my third term in this House. I do not believe in irrelevance and other things. I can assure you that I did write to the hon. Speaker. Sir, after 12 noon so many things come up and sometimes we do not want to embarrass the Speaker. When the House reassembles after lunch at 2 pm there is a comparatively peaceful atmosphere in the House. This is a very important issue. Sir, you usually hear things and the Minister must also take note of that. I have raised this issue and I do not want to give any embarrassment to you and I want the hon. Defence Minister to make a statement because 3000 men are likely to strike work in case the situation does not improve and all this work in these clothing factories which has been cancelled and off-loaded to the private sector should be brought back to the ordnance factories. If the Government is sincere, they should do something.

श्री आर्ज करनेच्छीज : वरना प्रधान मंत्री के घर के सामने प्रदर्शन होगा। इन्दिरा गांधी की जय के बजाय मुर्दाबाद कहा जायगा।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : It is a clear case where the Defence Minister has not fulfilled an assurance that he had given and he had categorically said that they would not be retrenched.

बी जाज करेन्ही ज : क्या कोई सरकारी
आदमी इसके बारे में नोट कर रहा है ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If it is a breach of an assurance on the part of the Minister, you can bring it to the notice of the Committee on Assurances.

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14.10 hrs.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT)
BILL---Contd.

****SHRI R. S. ARUMUGAM (Tenkasi) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill which is under discussion now, will do no good to anyone. Dr. Keskar Committee which was appointed by the Government some years ago recommended that there should be uniform taxation on Motor Vehicles throughout the country. This Report is with the Government for some years now. But I do not find any provision in this amending Bill incorporating this recommendation.

I would say that the workers in this field would also not get any benefit from this Bill. On the contrary, when this Bill becomes a law the workers will be put to a great hardship. I will give an example in this regard. There is a provision in this Bill according to which the driver has to submit a medical certificate at the time of renewal of his permit. I am sure that the driver will be unduly harassed by this provision and he will be put to financial inconvenience also for getting a medical certificate every time he has to renew his permit. I request the hon. Minister to re-examine this question and see to it that there is no compulsion on the driver to submit a medical certificate at the time of renewal of his permit.

Clause 17 of this amending Bill enunciates that a transport vehicle should not be used on a route which is not covered by its permit. If any break-down occurs, then the vehicle has to be taken for repair immediately. The permitted route may be a long-winding one and may not be possible to take the vehicle under repair all the way. Some exemptions have also been enu-

merated under this Clause giving permission for vehicles to be taken even on unauthorised route under certain conditions. I propose that an amendment should be incorporated in this Clause, permitting vehicles under repair also to move on unauthorised routes for the purpose of repair. I suggest that this amendment may be worded as follows :

"To any transport vehicle while proceeding empty to any place for the purpose of repair."

I request the Government to include this exemption also in this amending Bill.

When the principal Act was last amended, some concessions in regard to issuance of stage carriage permits were extended to cooperative societies engaged in Motor Transport, I would like to stress here the need for extending such concessions to the members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes interested in motor transport. As no amendment has been proposed to section 47 of the principal Act in this Bill, I am not able to suggest formally any amendment to that Section. In this connection, I wrote to the Prime Minister and also to the Minister of Transport stating that the Government should themselves bring forward an amendment to Section 47 of the principal Act extending this concession to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. I have received a reply to my letter in which it is said that the members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes will not be in a position to mobilise resources to the tune of Rs. 75,000/- which is the price of a bus and that is why they do not propose to bring forward any amendment in this regard. I was surprised to get such a reply. In fact I was greatly upset to hear such a plea from the Government. 95% of the operators do not buy vehicles with their own money. They are financed by other in buying these vehicles. On both the sides of Mint Street in Madras you will find rows of financiers ready to offer a loan of any amount of money when a stage carriage permit is obtained. In addition to these financiers, the scheduled banks also advance money to the private operators. The Indian Bank, the South Indian Bank, the Canara Bank and

****The original speech was delivered in Tamil.**