

policemen. Although law and order is a State subject, we do not want .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We are on a different matter now. On this point, I will not permit you to say anything at this stage. We are at a different stage. The hon. Member had written to me about the paper to be laid on the Table by Shri Ahmed.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI (Nagaur) : Sir, I have taken your permission. When I rose you were pleased to say "after Shri Tapuriah." I am raising a point of order in respect of the arbitration award which is now being placed on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Under the rules you will have to write to me... (Interruptions) All right. He can put a question.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that this arbitration between a group of individuals and Jessop and Company Limited has been a complicated one. It has taken several years before the arbitrator has been able to arrive at his conclusion and the award was submitted to the Government of India on the 21st April 1969, at a time when the House was in session, namely the budget session. I would like to know why this report was withheld all this time and why it is being made available now after all this delay.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : This is being placed before the House as soon as it has been passed as a decree by the court.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Shinde.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Are you satisfied with the reply? No reasonable person would be satisfied.

BIHAR SUGARCANE (REGULATION OF SUPPLY AND PURCHASE) SECOND ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Bihar Sugarcane (Regulation of Supply and Purchase) Second Ordinance, 1969 (Hindi and English versions) promulgated by

the Governor of Bihar on the 20th July, 1969, under article 213 (2) (a) of the Constitution read with clause (c) (iii) of the Proclamation dated the 4th July, 1969 issued by the Vice-President acting as President in relation to the State of Bihar. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1512/69.]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :—

(i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Monday, the 4th August, 1969, adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Hire-Purchase Bill, 1968 :—

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to define and regulate the rights and duties of parties to hire-purchase agreements and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be extended up to the first day of the Seventieth (November-December, 1969) Session of the Rajya Sabha".'

(ii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on Monday, the 4th August, 1969, adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Architects Bill, 1968 :—

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide for the registration of architects and for purposes connected therewith, be extended up to the last day of the Seventieth (November-December, 1969) Session of the Rajya Sabha".'

(iii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 4th August, 1969, adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Contempt of Courts Bill, 1968 :—

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to define and limit the powers of certain courts in punishing contempts of courts and to regulate their procedure in relation thereto be further extended up to the first day of the Seventieth (November-December, 1969) Session of the Rajya Sabha."

12.49 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. STRIKE SITUATION
IN JUTE INDUSTRY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bhagat.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : Sir, the House has already held a discussion...

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) : It may be laid on the Table of the House

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it a long one ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : About four pages.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then it may be laid on the Table.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the strike situation in the jute industry.

Statement

Mr. Speaker Sir. The House has already held a discussion on the issues involved in the strike of the workers in the jute industry and I, therefore, do not wish to burden Hon'ble Members with a detailed account of the course of events. I will accordingly confine myself to a statement regarding developments in the last three days.

2. As I had already stated in the House, I have been in constant touch with the West Bengal Government as well as representative of the jute industry and my colleague the Labour Minister was in touch with the workers. I had suggested to the Chief Minister that one way out of the impasse might be to appoint a Committee

which would go into the demands of workers and whose recommendation would be binding on all concerned. The Committee would consist of an equal number of representatives from industry and labour and be headed by an independent Chairman.

3. A message was sent by the Chief Minister on Saturday that in his judgment unless the workers were given some cash relief immediately, he did not feel that the strike could be averted. I, therefore, went to Calcutta on Sunday to make one last attempt to meet all the concerned parties in order to find a solution.

4. I had a number of separate discussions with representatives of both the Trade Unions as well as the industry. The West Bengal Chief Minister, Shri Ajoy Mukherji, was good enough to be present throughout the greater part of the discussions. I came to the conclusion that the workers were prepared to call off the threatened strike only if interim cash increase in wages was granted to them immediately. I also gathered that the industry conceded that the workers' demands for some increase in the wage level were justified. The industry, however, declared their inability to grant cash relief unless they were given fiscal concessions by the Government and in particular some drastic change was made in the present levels of export duties payable on jute goods.

5. I cannot help confessing to a sense of disappointment at the approach adopted by the industry. There is no justification for linking up the question of readjustment of export duties with the question of payment of interim relief to the workers. As the House is aware, export duty is payable by overseas importers and the benefit of reduction accrues to them.

6. Export duties on jute manufactures have been reviewed by Government from time to time. The level of these duties is based on a judgment in regard to the competitive position of jute manufactures in the world markets. In arriving at this judgment, the costs of production in India, including the level of raw material prices, wage costs, and manufacturing charges, are compared with like costs in other countries.