

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Saturday, May 4, 1974/Vaisakha 14,
1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Sidram Reddy (Gulbarga)

RE. STRIKE BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): I want to draw attention to the situation in the country today with the Railway Minister saying that those who will keep on striking will be dismissed, and massive arrests all over the country. In Punjab alone, 1000 people have been arrested. This is a complete surrender to the Americans. The Americans are directing this action. That is why she went to Iran. The country is going into the hands of fascists. It is being sold to the Yankees. We want a statement from the Home Minister as to how many persons have been arrested....

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting it. This was discussed yesterday. This is a continuing matter.

We had enough of discussion. Every day you bring it.

You have had a discussion earlier: only a day earlier. It is a continuing matter. I am sorry. You had a full discussion and the Minister made a statement about the matter. I cannot

ask him to come out with a statement every day.

Order, please. I am not permitting anything. No, no.

You have had a discussion already. I am not permitting anything. Kindly sit down.

I am not allowing anything.

When there is no business before the House, no point of order can arise.

Kindly sit down. You cannot speak without my permission.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, all of you. You had been given so many opportunities. It was discussed for more than five hours. There cannot be an adjournment motion on a continuing matter. Why are you continuing like this? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I request you to please sit down. इसमें बहस करने की इजाजत देने या न देने की बात नहीं है। आपने इसको पहले भी उठाया, क्वेश्चन प्रावर में उठाने के बाद एडजर्नमेंट मोशन पर ढाई घंटे की जगह पांच घंटे का समय लिया। एक सब्जेक्ट एक दफा डिस्कस होने के बाद फिर कैसे आ सकता है।

Continuing matters cannot come again.

अगर इसीलिये प्राज बैठक रखनी थी तो फिर रखने की जरूरत ही क्या थी।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर):
अगर नयी परिस्थिति पैदा हुई तो क्या बह

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

मामला हम नहीं उठा सकते हैं? (इन्टरप्शन)
खबर प्रायी है कि शांती में हिंसा हुई है।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (चतरा) :
मैं केवल एक बात की मांग करता हूँ कि सदन
की मर्यादा नहीं जानी चाहिये। आपकी
अनुमति से यह बोलें तो हमें कोई आपत्ति
नहीं है।

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I
am not able to listen to anybody. How
can I decide anything when I am
not able to hear anybody?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I
want half a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: On what?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On what
I have written to you earlier.

MR. SPEAKER: I have clearly stated
that the matter has already been
discussed.

Please sit down.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam):
Our submission is that we are rightly
agitated about the situation that has
arisen. Prof. Dandavate has brought
in a fresh matter.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar):
What fresh matters? (Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur):
Sir, they are not following the Rules
of Procedure. Why are you allowing
them? Every day they are disrupt-
ing the proceedings... (Interruptions)
For the last one week they are doing
it... (Interruptions).

SHRI SEZHIYAN: We are anxious
to get a statement from the Railway
Minister. It is for the Minister to say
"I would not make a statement". But,
why are you shutting us out? We
are agitated.

MR. SPEAKER: We had a very
detailed discussion on this subject,
which also covered the bandh.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: A new situation
has arisen on which we want to ex-
press our concern. What is the harm?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE (Basir-
hat) How can a responsible Member
like Shri Sezhiyan say that? (Inter-
ruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The
Railway Minister made the statement
40 hours ago. Since then many things
have happened.

MR. SPEAKER: So far as the
railway strike is concerned, we have
discussed it. It is a continuing matter
now.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: There
was a massive programme of arrests.
We would like the Home Minister to
tell us how many thousands have
been arrested in the country, in the
several States.

MR. SPEAKER: The Railway
strike was discussed in the adjourn-
ment motion. In fact, more than
double the time was taken.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):
It was agreed to have a sitting today
to discuss the Finance Bill. Are you
going to convert it into a discussion
on the railways?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing
it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We had
a full discussion the other day on the
threatened railway strike.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Sir, they
are not interested in the working class.
They only want to make an issue of
it... (Interruptions) Sir, how can the
same issue come up again, when it
has already been discussed?

MR. SPEAKER: I would request
him to leave it to me to deal with it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I am not going to raise the same issue. I am against any conversion. I do not want to convert today's sitting of the House into discussing something else. I may assure my hon. friend, Shri Lakkappa, that I am following the same rules as he used to follow when he was in the Opposition.

You just now said that no new situation has developed. You said that you do not want this matter to be discussed because it was discussed in the form of an adjournment motion the other day. I only want to know whether we have not got a right to ask the Railway Minister or even the Prime Minister on the basis of the press reports we get and on the All India Radio, 99 per cent time is devoted to demoralise the railwaymen and to confuse the public. (Interruptions) Have I not got any right, as a Member of the House, to invite the attention of the Speaker to that and to ask the Minister concerned to make a statement on a subject which is of prime importance today?

The railway strike is to commence from the 8th. Today, it is 4th. There are only 3 days left. Even Mr. George Fernandes who is in jail is interested to have a negotiated settlement. I want to know whether we have not got the right to ask the Prime Minister who wrote a letter to the Chief Ministers before leaving for Iran, to make a statement. Can we not ask for this? We are entitled to that. Let her declare, what she has written to the Chief Ministers is correct. Then, we will also decide our course of action. I request you to ask the Prime Minister or the Railway Minister to make a statement. I do not want the Prime Minister to play in to the hands of reactionary forces... (Interruptions)

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे (गोरखपुर) :
मान्यवर, कल तो वित्त विधेयक पर डिस्कशन

करने के लिये विरोधी दल बहुत प्रेस कर रहे थे और आज का सेशन उसी पल्पक के लिये हो रहा है, क्योंकि वित्त विधेयक भी काफी महम विषय है जिसके ऊपर प्राप विचार कर सकते हैं। लेकिन रोज हड़ताल को लाकर देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को रनसम करना और यह कहना कि सरकार अपनी जिम्मेदारी से भाग रही है, यह उचित नहीं है।

That is the creation of these Opposition people. They want to make a political outcome of that. The Government is doing the right thing. The Railway Minister has already said that unless the strike notice is withdrawn, the arrested leaders will not be released? Why should they daily raise all these things here?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I agree with you that no continuing matter may be taken up. The entire House is concerned with the settlement of the strike and is interested in averting the strike. I wish to bring to your notice that I have got a copy of the letter written by Shri George Fernandes to the Prime Minister saying that he wants to know whether the Prime Minister is willing to intervene and settle the strike. In his letter, he has made a constructive proposal as to how the strike can be averted. He has ended the letter to the Prime Minister by saying that he is interested in averting the strike and that she should intervene in the matter. We want to know the response of the Prime Minister. (Interruptions).

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, यह ठीक है कि आज सदन की बैठक वित्त विधेयक पर विचार करने के लिये हुई है। लेकिन कुछ ऐसी चीजें आयी हैं सामने जो हमें चिन्तित कर रही हैं, और मैं उनमें से एक बात प्राप के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ। तमिल नाडु के मुख्य मंत्री, श्री कृष्णानिधि, जिन्हें प्रधान मंत्री ने पत्र लिखा था रेलवे

[श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी]

स्ट्राइक के बारे में, यह सार्वजनिक रूप से मुख्य मंत्री ने बयान दिया है कि उन्हें रेलवे स्ट्राइक को समाप्त कराने के प्रयत्न से निरूत्साहित किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने इस बात का रहस्योद्घाटन किया है . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The railway strike was discussed in this House. Why do you bring it again?

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : रेलवे स्ट्राइक की चर्चा नहीं हो रही है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चर्चा करके भी कहते हैं कि नहीं हो रही है।

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : उस दिन चर्चा के बाद रेल मंत्री ने कह दिया कि जब तक स्ट्राइक का नोटिस वापस नहीं होगा तब तक समझौता वार्ता नहीं चलेगी

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हाज़म में यह विषय डिस्कस हो चुका है, रोजाना थोड़े ही डिस्कस होगा।

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : जब तक स्ट्राइक का मामला हल नहीं होगा, यह मामला उठाया जाएगा . . . (व्यवधान) . . . आप हमारी बात तो सुनिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कैसे सुनूं। आप इस हाउस के प्रोसीजर को बदल दीजिये।

I have to carry on the work according to the procedure. I am the Speaker of this House. I have to look to proper procedure.

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : आप अगर एक-एक मिनट दे देते, तो यह मामला खत्म हो जाता। क्या हम सम्मिलन भी नहीं कर सकते? आप हमारी यह बात तो मान लीजिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : शबरदस्ती कैसे मानें।

श्री छटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : हम तो आप से प्रार्थना कर रहे हैं कि आप थोड़ा सा समय हमें दें। अध्यक्ष जी, जार्ज करनेकीक ने जेल से पत्र लिखा है

अध्यक्ष महोदय : परसों सब कुछ था गया था आपने सारी स्थिति के ऊपर परसों सब कुछ डिस्कस कर लिया था।

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Mr. Vajpayee has said that some new situation has arisen. You were correct, Sir, when you said that the threatened railway strike had already been discussed in this House through an Adjournment Motion, and the motion was rejected. No new situation has arisen. If there is any new situation, it is only that some sort of intimidation and coercion is going on by a section of the people. There is no new situation that has arisen and the Railway is working quite all right. There should be no more discussion on this point.

MR. SPEAKER: The railway strike, as a whole, was discussed. Every day some letter passes and on that letter you bring a motion. Something on this side also happens and you bring a motion.

आज शाम कोई बात प्रौर हो गई, तो फिर एक मोशन ले आयेंगे।

What is this?

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): We are very sorry if we have created an impression on your mind and the minds of the hon. Members on the other side that we are demanding a discussion on the subject. We are not demanding a discussion on the subject just now. There is no motion . . .

MR. SPEAKER: He has sent an Adjournment Motion on that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: We are not on that. In fact, we are very anxious to proceed with the discussion on the Finance Bill for which

the whole day has been fixed today. But my submission is that, in such a situation when a large number of trains, 233 trains, have been cancelled by the Government and not by the railway employees, when the general public is being put to great inconvenience and hardships, it should be the duty of the Government to come forward with a statement before the House every day indicating either improvement or deterioration in the situation and what steps they are taking to meet the situation. It is clearly the duty of the Government to come forward with such a statement every day because we represent the general public and we know to what extent the general public is inconvenienced.

A point has been made here that a sincere offer for the settlement of this matter has been made by the leader of the railwaymen.

We would like to know whether Government wants to warmly grasp the offer or not. We want that those who have been arrested, a large number of arrests have been made; thousands of workers have been arrested must be released immediately if they want to create the necessary atmosphere.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a new dimension that has emerged since the Adjournment Motion. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: This is a continuing matter and so I allowed only half a minute to him. Please listen to him what he wants to say.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Uptill now, that is, the end of the Adjournment Motion, we were under the impression that Government was very serious in wanting to avert the strike and do everything possible to get a negotiated settlement. But, the last sentence in the Railway Minister's speech casts a considerable doubt on the intention of the Government whereby, all of a sudden, instead of saying that they will continue to negotiate, at the last

minute, a new condition was introduced into the negotiations, namely, that they should first withdraw the strike notice and then only they will negotiate.

MR. SPEAKER: That was discuss the same day.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Have they changed their mind now?

MR. SPEAKER: That has already been said.

SHRI PILOO MODY: After all you have the power; you can abuse it and even misuse it as much as you like. But, nonetheless, the fact remains that there has been a new dimension introduced which did not exist upto that moment. And, I think, an explanation is due to the House as to why the Government has changed its attitude.

MR. SPEAKER: When you have a discussion on it, you do not discuss it for the present but for the future also. You said that the bandh is impending and so, we must have a discussion.

So far as the adjournment motion is concerned, my ruling was that an identical subject has already been discussed. I am informed by three hon. Members that they are not pressing for it now. What they want is statement. I have no objection to the statement. It is not only in the interest of the Opposition because they are pressing for it but also in the interest of the whole House that some information should come as to what is the latest position about the situation. I have no objection to that. I would very much ask Shri Raghu Ramaiah as to what he wants to say.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: Sir, in a matter like this, I would humbly submit that it would be wise to leave it to the Minister to come forward with the information as and when the situation so warrants. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, no more.