

[Mr. Speaker.]

Pondicherry is in India. On broader considerations, I will call a meeting of the leaders of parties in which the Finance Minister and Law Minister may participate. Do you want the meeting to be held today? Let us meet the day after tomorrow at 4.00 p.m.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : Tomorrow is a holiday.

MR. SPEAKER : The holidays have played havoc on him. If there were no holidays, there would have been no difficulty.

Now we pass on to the next business.

Re PROPOSED STRIKE BY GENERAL INSURANCE EMPLOYEES

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: (Kanpur): Sir, I want your permission to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly give something in writing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : This is about the proposed strike by the General Insurance Employees; they are going on strike from 8th April, 1974.

The General Insurance employees are agitated over the attitude of the Government who have not accepted the agreement reached between the All India General Insurance Employees' Association and the Corporation. You had allowed a question here, Sir, where the Finance Minister replied that negotiations were going on. I am told today that the negotiations have failed because of the rigid attitude of the Finance Ministry. The General Insurance Employees' Association have given a call and have also written a letter to the Finance Minister that, if no negotiated settlement is reached, they would be at liberty to go

on strike from the 8th April, 1974. This is purely a Central matter. The Finance Minister and the Deputy Minister are here. I am surprised that an agreement reached with the Corporation is not being accepted by the Finance Ministry. I would request you to ask the Finance Minister to make a statement on the 5th April, to avoid the impending strike. If the strike takes place, they will be solely responsible for that. On behalf of the Association, I request you, Sir, to ask the Finance Minister to make a statement. Otherwise, there will be an all India strike.

14.04 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : PROCUREMENT AND PRICING POLICY OF WHEAT FOR 1974-75 SEASON

MR. SPEAKER : There is a motion by Shri B.V. Naik and Shri Madhu Limaye to raise a discussion on the statement made by the Minister of agriculture in the House on the 28th March, 1974, regarding the procurement and pricing policy of wheat for the 1974-75 season. The time allotted is five hours.

Shri B.V. Naik.

SHRI B.V. NAIK (Kanara) : The pricing policy for wheat and also the policy in regard to procurement which the Hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture has laid on the Table, after a considerable amount of experience which he has gained in the course of the last many years, while in brief it can be described as a sort of a realistic step may also be considered as a sort of a compromise with the realities that have been prevailing in this sub-continent.

And one of the hardest realities is the violence, the violent in the sub-continent which has erupted right from Gujarat to Maharashtra and many urban centres in the country.