

I do not like to say anything about the other thing. Shri Banerjee was accusing my friend when he was intervening....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE I never accused him. I believe in united action.

(अध्यक्षान्)

हमेशा दलाली की आप ने। आप दलाल नम्बर एक है।

श्री टी० सोहन लाल : आप हैं, यह मैं साबित कर दूंगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप तो ऐसे लड़ रहे जैसे सास और बहू लड़ती हैं। बहुत मुश्किल बात है। अगर इसी तरह से चलना है तो फिर लोक सभा इसी झूठ पर होनी चाहिए कि आपस में लड़ने झगड़ने वाला कौन ज्यादा है।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Mr. Sohan Lal says he is a labour leader. Does he look like a labour leader, Sir? All of them are supporting the black legs, and they are responsible for the strike. We know the history.

AN HON. MEMBER: Rule 377.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं बता दूँ सब को कि 377 कभी डिबेट के लिए नहीं है। यह बिल्कुल गलत परम्परा होगी।

After all, this House proceedings are to be conducted by argument, by exchange of views and peaceful discussions.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I am just completing. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is good that Mr. Banerjee has now declared that he is also supporting the strike. All the workers are on strike. I want the Government to intervene in this strike immediately so that the workers' demands could be settled.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon): I support Mr. A. P. Sharma is what he said.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let the Minister make a statement today.

13.21 hrs.

RE. REDUCED SUPPLY OF R. F. O.
TO DHUVARAN AND AHMEDABAD
POWER PLANTS

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to invite briefly but urgently the attention of the House and in particular the attention of the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to a very serious situation resulting in severe loss in power generation due to substantially reduced supply of the RFO—residual fuel oil—to the Dhuvaran and Ahmedabad power plants caused by the labour trouble at the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's several projects in Gujarat.

The workers of the ONGC projects at various places like Navagan, Kalol, Ahmedabad, Cambay and Ankleshwar and other places have been carrying on a work-to-rule agitation for the last several days and this has resulted in a loss of production and unemployment in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the negotiations between the workers on the one hand and the management of the ONGC on the other are going on for the last two years. The demands are so few and are of a minor nature. They want cash payment of their arrears and they have been urging some fixation of grades and a few other minor points need to be settled. The amazing part of the whole thing is that the amount involved is only Rs. 8 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakhs. The negotiations have been going on for the past two years. And the ONGC workers at last are now conducting a work-to-rule agitation. Moreover, I cannot understand how a work-to-rule agitation can result in all these difficulties. What kind of

rules have been framed by which this work-to-rule agitation results in all kinds of difficulties? I request the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to intervene immediately in the matter and arrange to have a tripartite conference among the Oil and Natural Gas Commission representatives, the labour representatives and the Government with a view to having an amicable settlement so that the power plants in Gujarat do not suffer any more.

13.23 hrs.

RE. NON-SUPPLY OF YARN TO POWERLOOM INDUSTRY IN GUJARAT

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 13th March, 1973, the Government imposed a control on yarn. Since then, yarn is not allotted to the power loom industry in Gujarat and other States according to their requirements. One month has passed by and the power loom units of Gujarat and other States are hard hit. In Gujarat, 50,000 workers have lost their job and a further 50,000 workers will be thrown out of employment within a very short time, say, within a week. This situation will adversely affect five lakh souls and they will be pushed to further suffering and hardship for no fault of theirs in these hard days.

The powerloom industry of Gujarat produces one million metres of cloth per year at the average selling price of Re. 1 only. This cheap variety of cloth is mostly used by working class people and the rural population.

My hon. friends, Shri Mavalankar and Shri Banerjee and some others had raised this matter in the House, but there is no improvement at all in the situation. It appears the ministry is indifferent, careless and negligent. Therefore, under the circumstances, I appeal to the Government to come forward immediately to release sized beams and coarse yarn from control and make sized beams and yarn available to the powerloom industry in Gujarat and other States to solve the crisis.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): About the strike by the textile workers in Delhi, let the Labour Minister make a statement, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: If he wants to make a statement, I have no objection. The Labour Minister is not here.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): About the discussion on the demands of the Irrigation and Power Ministry, there are a good number of members on this side who want to participate in it. I have consulted the leaders of the opposition also. We request you to extend the time by 3 hours. That will mean, the Minister will be called to reply at about 5 P.M.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): We have no objection to it. But let the Labour Minister make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: If the minister wants to make a statement, he is very welcome.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): When something under rule 377 is admitted, why is it that the minister is not informed? Otherwise, there is no point in giving notice under rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a calling attention or a debating point that I should direct the minister to make a statement. You have invited the attention of the minister. It is up to him to make a statement or not. I cannot force him.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You can give a direction.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give any direction.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: If he is not making a statement, we are walking out of the House in protest.

MR. SPEAKER: May I tell you, again it is week-end. Don't do it every time. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs says, the Labour Minister is not here.