

[Shri M. B. Rana]

in Orissa Gazette dated the 12th May, 1973 making certain amendment to the Orissa Express Highway Rules, 1967, under sub-section (2) of section 11 of the Orissa Express Highway Act, 1964, read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 3rd March, 1973 issued by the President in relation to the State of Orissa

- (H) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Notification. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5393/73].

ANNUAL REPORTS OF UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOUNDRY AND FORGE TECHNOLOGY, RANCHI, AND INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, DELHI FOR THE YEAR 1971-72

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): I beg to lay or the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission for the year 1971-72, under section 18 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1966. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5394/73].
- (2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi version) of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 1971-72. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5395/73].
- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi version) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the year 1971-72. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5396].

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA  
SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1973, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th August, 1973"

UTTAR PRADESH STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWER) BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1973, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.28 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CALLING OFF OF STRIKE BY LOCO RUNNING STAFF

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Sir, I am glad to inform the House that in response to the sage advice of Rashtrapati and the Prime Minister the locomen who had abstained from work decided late last night the 12-9-73, to resume duty forthwith.

The delegation of these loco running staff have had talks for several days with the Minister for Labour, Shri Raghunath Reddy and with me. In the context of these talks and with a view to restoring order and industrial peace and promoting productivity and prosperity of the national economy, certain arrangements have been arrived at today morning—13-8-73 which I am enumerating below as specific conclusions:—

- (1) The absentee staff will resume their duties immediately
- (2) All those who have been arrested in connection with the agitation (May to August '73) will

be released as soon as the present agitation is called off except those charged under law for acts of sabotage, damage to railway property and violence.

Charge sheets filed against the persons under the provisions of DIR for acts which do not involve sabotage, damage to railway property or violence shall be reviewed by the Committee and appropriate action will be initiated for getting such charge sheets withdrawn. With respect to acts of sabotage damaging railway property and violence, it would be impressed upon the State Governments to examine all matters on merit and take appropriate action in such cases

- (3) All those released from arrest will be taken back on duty
- (4) Penal transfers, reversions, suspensions and removals arising out of the agitations or in connection with the agitations shall be withdrawn except for those charged with acts of sabotage, damage to railway property and violence
- (5) Break-in-service shall be condoned
- (6) The period of absence arising out of the present agitation from 1-8-73 will be adjusted against leave earned and in cases where leave earned is not due shall be adjusted against leave to be earned in the immediate future.
- (7) Charge sheets of administrative character directly connected with trade union activities or activities arising out of agitations (May-August '73) shall be withdrawn.
- (8) The N.F.I.R. and A.I.R.F. two recognised Unions, had for many years in the Permanent Negotiating Machinery and elsewhere demanded the review of the hours of work. This question of hours of work was refer-

red to the Miabhoj Tribunal which gave its recommendations in August '72. After examining international standards and practices and conditions prevailing in this country, the Tribunal had accepted in principle that there was a case for reduction of hours of work (duty at a stretch) for the running staff, namely, locomen, guards and brakemen. I accept this position.

During the period of the last ten days, I had a number of meetings with the leaders of the two recognised federations—N.F.I.R. and A.I.R.F. also and I have had the benefit of their views on this complicated matter.

After giving considerable thought to this question and in response to the demand of the workers, I have agreed to a revision which is defined in precise terms as under:—

"Members of the loco running staff will not be required to work for more than ten hours a stretch from signing on to signing off

Details and mode and manner of the implementation of ten hours of work will be discussed and finalised by the Committee to be appointed and held between the representatives of the loco running staff and the Government within six weeks from the withdrawal of this agitation"

- (9) All the assurances given by the Government from the period commencing from July '67 to date that have remained unimplemented shall be implemented as expeditiously as possible.
- (10) To discuss the other points of grievances, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, Deputy Minister

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

for Railways, with five senior officials of the Ministry of Railways and five representatives of the Loco Running Staff will be constituted and commence functioning within five days of the resumption of the work by the loco running staff. A representative of the Ministry of Labour will also attend the meeting.

- (11) With respect to matters discussed and agreed to, no direct action will be resorted to within the period of three years from such agreement.

Last but not least, I take this opportunity of expressing my deep sense of appreciation of the good work done and the high sense of duty displayed by all the staff, supervisors and officers of all ranks who had gone all out to keep essential supplies moving for the country. I had stated in the House earlier that their services will not go unrecognised. Many of them had to face coercion and physical violence and sustained injuries. Their commendable services under very trying conditions will be amply rewarded. I am confident that Parliament will be one with me on this.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):** The locomen also thank the Minister for this. It is a defeat for those who wanted to sabotage the negotiations and agreement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You can go and congratulate him. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla.

12.32 hrs.

#### STATEMENT RE. EXPLOSION IN AMMUNITION FACTORY, KIRKEE

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINIST

**STRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):** I regret to inform the House that an explosion occurred at 11.03 hours on 11th August, 1973 at Ammunition Factory, Kirkee, in a process shop which is utilised for the manufacture of Bicet Strips which are training aids for the Services. The explosion originated in an area where the filling of Bicet Strips is carried out. As a result of the explosion, the causes of which are yet to be determined, 13 people have died. 2 persons actually engaged in filling lost their lives instantaneously. The collapse of the inner wall of the filling building and the heat of explosion caused the instant death of 3 more persons and 8 others succumbed to their injuries in hospital. Out of the 34 persons injured the condition of 8 is causing anxiety. Injuries to other 26 persons are relatively not serious.

As provided under the rules, an enquiry has been instituted by a Board of three Officers, presided over by Chief Inspector of Military Explosives, Kirkee, to go into the causes of the accident. Further action will be taken when the report of the Committee is received. The Committee has already started functioning and is expected to submit its report within a month's time. Immediately on receipt of the news of the explosion. Secretary, Department of Defence Production and the Addl. Director General, Ordnance Factories visited the scene of accident and met the officers and staff of the factory and also visited the injured in Hospitals and the families of the deceased in their houses and conveyed the condolences of the Government to them.

The Police authorities have also visited the site of the occurrence and are also separately investigating into the case.

Government are deeply distressed over this tragedy which has brought so much suffering to so many families and all assistance will be given for their rehabilitation. To each of the