

[Mr. Speaker].

and Varkey George, Members, Lok Sabha, were arrested at 11.00 hours and 11.25 hours respectively at Kottayam, on the 2nd August 1978, under Section 57 of the Kerala Police Act for defying prohibitory orders under sections 21 and 23 of the Kerala Police Act, promulgated by the Additional District Magistrate, Kottayam, Kerala".

(Interruptions) ..

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Samar Guha, I am not permitting it. I have not permitted anything. Please do not do it. This is not the occasion for such things.

12.51 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CURRENT STRIKE SITUATION ON THE INDIAN RAILWAYS

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. L. N. Mishra.  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will give ten minutes every day.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on between Mr. Madhu Limaye and you?

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): It is personal animus between them.

MR. SPEAKER: Then we can have an 'animus hour'! You go on doing anything when I have called on the Minister to make a statement, ignoring the procedures of the House. You are having it for your entertainment and the entertainment of the House. Every day you do it.

To Mr. Madhu Limaye also, you are a senior member. You should not get involved like this.

श्री मधु लिमाये (बांद्रा) : ये लोग हम को हमेशा ही तंग करते रहते हैं। मैं

भाप जानते ही हूँ कि भापकी मजबूती ले कर ही बोलता हूँ। लेकिन फिर भी ये तंग करते हैं। भापकी मजबूती के ऊपर पड़े, इसके लिए मैं प्रयास करता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इन से मत उलझा करें।

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Sir, I regret to inform the House of a sudden dislocation of rail traffic, both passenger and goods, brought about by the illegal and precipitate action of a section of the staff.

This started on the evening of 1st August at the Delhi Main station. Some of the locomen working in groups along with outsiders armed with daggers, boarded a number of shunting engines and forced the crew to drop fire, blocking all movements in the yards resulting in immediate cancellation of some trains and exceptional delays to other services.

As of midnight, the dropping of fire of some engines at some places coupled with mass absenteeism, was suddenly resorted to by the Loco staff at sheds at several important places on the Railways.

This illegal strike has been perpetrated suddenly without any immediate cause and without giving notice or intimation to the Administration at any place. The House is aware of the fact that there is great need today to maintain at top pitch the transport of essential commodities like foodgrains, petroleum and coal to scarcity areas and raw materials to industries and steel plants. This equally damages the financial resources of the Railways as well as the Government.

The manner in which this action has been planned and executed and the degree of intimidation and coercion that is being employed is clearly

directed towards paralysing the economy of the nation and is certainly not in the interests of the workers.

The Defence of India Rules are in force. Government has no option but to act firmly and decisively to bring rail transport to normalcy in the present strained economic conditions.

I appeal to all members of the House to support the Government in restoring the railways premier transport industry to normalcy.

I appeal earnestly and sincerely to Railwaymen, the large body of whom are fully aware of their duty to the Nation, to work with a will and determination to see that their enterprise works smoothly and efficiently in service of the Nation.

12.58 hrs.

#### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

—Contd.

#### DISRUPTION OF RAILWAY SERVICES DUE TO MASS ABSENTEEISM BY LOCO RUNNING STAFF—Contd.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (स्वालयर): मेरा प्वाइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्वाइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर तो प्रोसीजर पर होता है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैंने इस पर विचार के लिए एडजर्नमेंट मोशन दिया था लेकिन आपने स्वीकार किया नहीं —

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं तैयार था।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : लेकिन मंत्री महोदय बयान देने वारने के थे। उनका बयान आपने सुना है। लोको कर्मचारी क्यों हड़ताल पर गए इसका कोई विवरण नहीं है। सबको उन्होंने धंधरे में रखा है। जमानत कर गुमराह किया है। इसके ऊपर चर्चा का मौका आप दें।

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, all of you. I will fix it up at 5 0' clock (Interruptions) Or, shall we fix it up for 3.30?

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): There is Private Members' Business coming up. 2 to 3.30 may pe petter.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): I shall be grateful to you and to the House if you can wait till Monday. We are having some negotiations with the union leaders... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You know when the Speaker is standing, no recording of anybody else takes place. (Interruptions) Why can't you sit? I am not allowing anyone. Please sit down.

Of course, the motion was there and I was prepared to allow it, but I think you have done well in asking for a discussion. What time will suit you?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister says Monday; and without the Minister it is very difficult to suddenly fix it up. Now, I request you that the little business that was left over yesterday—the Customs, Gold (Control) and Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill—should go through today.

13 hrs.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): The minister has said that the strike was without notice and without any provocation...

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not go into the merits.

SHRI PILOO MODY: No, Sir; I am not going into the merits. Such callous ignorance of what has happened according to the facts of the matter leads me to the conclusion that key ministries like rail-