

17.03 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE
(Query)

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): With regard to that strike in the Free Press Journal, we have given calling attention notice because it is a very serious matter; for more than a month the strike is on, and all the 500 employees are without jobs and notices are being issued to these employees for retrenchment. Even lay-off compensation is denied. A serious situation has arisen.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Unfortunately the hon. Member here had to go to attend a particular meeting. Some of us had sent a letter to the Labour Minister requesting his kind intervention.

Mr. Speaker: I will also ask the Labour Minister that he should try his best. What else can we do on this question?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: That is exactly what we want.

Shri Nambiar: This point was raised in the morning and you were kind enough

Mr. Speaker: It was a state matter. It cannot be taken up like this. I have told you already. I am also passing that on to the Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They are working journalists, Sir. I am only requesting you if you could kindly convey our sentiments to the Labour Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I will do that. The observations made and this part of the discussion may be sent to the Labour Minister so that he may know what has happened. Half-an-hour discussion.

17.06 hrs.

***NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL**

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): Sir, I beg to raise this discussion on points arising out of the replies given on the 13th March to starred question No. 571 regarding National Productivity Council. As a matter of fact my discussion pertains to the answers given to certain other questions on this Council which had been raised on the 5th April, 1963 and on 24th April, 1964. I am myself deeply interested in the promotion of higher levels of productivity in all sectors of our national economy, and in the programme of the productivity movement in our country. Being so interested in the cause, I shall desist and refrain from introducing any element of vehemence in what observations I have to offer in this discussion.

At the same time, I think it is my duty to draw the attention of the House to certain unsavoury and unsatisfactory aspects of the working of the National Productivity Council. I do so also on a question of principle. At one time, during the answers to the questions, the hon. Minister of Industry insisted that since this was an autonomous, statutory society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, it was not possible for him to go into the details of the working of this Council. I think that this is an answer which is wholly unsatisfactory and I am sure that the Minister, on mature and proper consideration, would grant or concede to this House that this House has the authority and the power to go into the working of the National Productivity Council for which the Government of India has been voting or granting very large amounts of money year in and year out and it is through these grants that this Council has been functioning, substantially speaking.