

[Shrimati Akamma Devi]

with housing facilities. Let there be either housing accommodation, or at least hostel accommodation for the time being so that these workers get the benefit and may make a sacrifice to give us the maximum production of cordite, which in turn will go to help our jawans to guard our borders and our sacred soil.

17 hrs.

Coming to the next point, I insist on modernisation of the existing factories. The plant installed in these factories is nearly sixty years old. When our workers are able to turn out the maximum production with this old plant, just imagine what would be the position if the machinery is modernised and the workers are also given incentives. So, before launching on the setting up of new machinery in new factories, let the existing factories be modernised so that there will be maximum production and that will bring benefits to the country.

Some of my friends in the Opposition say that let there not be party-politics introduced into this matter. I do agree with them on this point. After all, it is the defence of our country. This concerns not only the ruling party or the Swatantra Party or the Communist party but the entire country, and, therefore, we should unite. Whether we are in the battlefield or we are from the north or we are from the south, we should all unite so that the workers in these ordnance factories will be given encouragement. Let there not be disparity between the workers in one ordnance factory and another.

I agree with the hon. Minister when he says that not only should we expand and set up new ordnance factories, but we should also modernise and equip our existing factories.

With these words, I support the statement made by the hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker Shri Sham Lal Saraf may speak tomorrow. After him, the hon. Minister would be called, because

there is no other speaker. This discussion would be continued tomorrow, after the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Railways have been disposed of.

17.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—contd.

(ii) STRIKE BY DELHI MILK SCHEME EMPLOYEES

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported strike by the employees of the Delhi Milk Scheme protesting against the move for a limited company.”

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri (Shahnawaz Khan): As a result of the recommendations made by the committee of experts that looked into the working of the Delhi Milk Scheme recently, there is a proposal before Government to convert the Delhi Milk Scheme, now running as a department of the Central Government, into a company under the Company Law. The representatives of the Delhi Milk Scheme Employees Union met the Minister for Food and Agriculture at 7.45 p.m. on the 15th December, 1964, to make certain representations against the proposal to convert the Delhi Milk Scheme into a limited company. In particular, they asked that the existing rights and privileges of the D.M.S. employees should be protected. The Minister for Food and Agriculture gave them the assurance that everything possible will be done to protect these rights and privileges but the Minister was unable to accept the view that the D.M.S. should not be converted into a company under the Company Law.

The Delhi Milk Scheme employees went on strike about the midnight of the 15th December, 1964, and the strike was called off as a result of the efforts of the Chairman, Delhi Milk Scheme, and the good offices of Shri K. N. Pande, M.P., President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. Fuller details of the incident would be made available to the House by the Minister for Food and Agriculture tomorrow. He is on tour today. I request that this notice may be held

over till tomorrow. I am making this request because the hon. Minister has himself dealt with this case personally.

Mr. Speaker: We shall take it up tomorrow.

17.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 17, 1964/Agrahayana 26, 1886 (Saka).