

[Mr. Speaker]

public importance namely, the situation arising out of the country-wide transport strike in Travancore-Cochin State."

It is primarily a subject of a State.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): It is an inter-departmental conflict. There an employee has been assaulted by the Police and the entire staff of the transport service have gone on strike.

Mr. Speaker: Whether it is an inter-departmental, or it is a matter of only one Department of the State, admittedly it is a State subject.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: There is no legislature there now.

Mr. Speaker: So, they will have to approach the Ministry there. It is not a matter which can be discussed on an adjournment motion in this House.

DOCK LABOUR BOARD

Mr. Speaker: The third motion is by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:

"That the business of the House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the situation arising out of the failure of the Central Government to take effective measures for ensuring the normal functioning of the Dock Labour Board, Kidderpore, Calcutta, against the attempts of stevedore and the local police to subvert the Board, for the protection of workers loyal to the Board against the attacks by stevedore financed goondas and the police as evidenced by the unwarranted assault and vandalism perpetrated on the Board Office and the dock workers standing in file before the Dock Labour Board Call Office to register attendance on 19-12-53."

It is difficult to see how this is admissible. But I want to know what is this Dock Labour Board, what has

Government to do with that? If anything, from the form of the motion, it appears the aggrieved party is the Dock Labour Board in this case.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): Sir, there was a news item in yesterday's papers about large-scale disturbances before the office of the Dock Labour Board and some sixty persons were injured by police firing and some 112 persons were taken under police custody. As the paper reports have revealed, it had something to do with the Dock Labour Board. But you have often advised us not to rely on paper reports. It was apparent to me from the conflicting versions appearing in papers that there was something fishy about it. Most of the papers mentioned one union, the Dock Mazdoor Union whose representatives have already been appointed by the Central Government in the Dock Labour Board. So far as that union is concerned, it seemed to me that there would have been no objection from the side of the common mass of labourers. But I put myself in touch with the leaders of the union over the telephone and I have received telegrams, and now the Calcutta papers have also arrived.

Now I have to give some background history of the thing as briefly as possible.

Mr. Speaker: We are concerned here with the admissibility of the motion. I want to know how the question of responsibility of the Central Government arises in this case.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The responsibility of the Central Government arises, Sir, because of the fact that the Dock Labour Board has been appointed by the Central Government, and the Central Government are fully aware that since the inception of the Board it has been the anxiety of the Calcutta stevedores, the majority of whom are Europeans, to see that the Board does not function properly—because it is the function of the Dock Labour Board to afford some sort of

protection to labourers as regards their conditions of labour, employment, wages, etc. And since then there have been persistent efforts by all the stevedores to undermine and subvert the Dock Labour Board. The events that took place on the 19th instant are a part of that systematic attempt, and the reports published in the papers take a biased view of things. The real facts are that a section of local hooligans supported by the police—of course so far as the police are concerned I am not going into that matter, the State Government would go into it—are responsible for this. But so far as the Central Government is concerned we are entitled to know and this House is entitled to know why the Central Government has not taken any steps since the inception of the Dock Labour Board to see that the Board can function properly and can discharge its responsibilities towards the dock workers properly.

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): Sir, the Dock Labour Board was appointed at the instance of the Central Government and it is wrong to say that the Central Government is responsible for its not conducting itself properly. On the Dock Labour Board there are representatives of workers and employees and the Board has been functioning properly.

Here it is a case where two parties were fighting, and some fight took place. For that the Central Government is not at all responsible. The Central Government did its duty in establishing the Dock Labour Board and the Board is functioning normally. Therefore I do not know where we come into the picture. However, I have no further information except what I have read in the press. If necessary, I shall get further information in the matter.

Mr. Speaker: In any case, I shall keep it over for tomorrow. Will he be able to get it by then?

Shri V. V. Giri: It may be kept by till day after tomorrow, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: So this is kept over till day after tomorrow. The hon. Minister will get information and then we will decide about the admissibility.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri S. C. Balakrishnan:—

“The sudden death of my only daughter affected my health and I am unable to attend the present session of the House so far.

I request you to get the permission of the House for me to be absent from attending the fifth session.”

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri S. C. Balakrishnan for remaining absent from all meetings of the House till the end of the present session?

Leave was granted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENTS SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON PROMISES AND ASSURANCES.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the table the following statements showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the various sessions shown against each:—

(1) Supplementary Fourth Session, 1953
Statement No. III of the House of the People.

[See Appendix VII, annexure No. 14.]

(2) Supplementary Third Session, 1953
Statement No. VIII of the House of the People.

[See Appendix VII, annexure No. 15.]

(3) Supplementary Second Session, 1952
Statement No IX of the House of the People.

[See Appendix VII, annexure No. 16.]
