

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.]
