

Uniform Wages for Jute Mill Workers

269. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Aurebindo Ghosal:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state whether the Government propose to appoint a Wage Board or Committee to bring about uniform wages for jute mill workers?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): This item is included in the agenda of the Industrial Committee on Jute which is proposed to be convened early next year.

Soap Industry in Punjab

279. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality and standard of soap has deteriorated in Punjab;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the soap manufacturers of Punjab have explained to the Controller of Imports and Exports the position regarding the import of Copra; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a). No, Sir.

(b). Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Punjab Soap Manufacturers Association, Jullundur City had requested recently that licences for import of Copra should be issued on the basis of production of soap and not consumption of Coconut-Oil. The Association's suggestion was given due consideration but could not be accepted.

Meeting of Plan Publicity Officers

271. Shri S. A. Mehdi: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Plan Publicity Officers was held in Madras in October, 1959; and

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed and the decisions taken?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Menkar): (a). Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Regional Officers of Plan Publicity of this Ministry and the State Directors of Information of that zone (comprising the States of Madras, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala) was held at Madras on 27th October, 1959.

(b). The meeting discussed problems relating to field publicity regarding the Five Year Plan. No decisions were taken as the main purpose of the meeting was an exchange of views for better and more effective field publicity.

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT**REPORTED CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIR-FIELD IN LADAKH BY THE CHINESE**

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of five adjournment motions, all relating to the construction of an air-field by the Chinese in Ladakh.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I had given notice of a Call Attention Motion yesterday. You have not mentioned it.

Mr. Speaker: It has not yet been admitted.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): In addition to the air strip which has been constructed there, the Chinese are also constructing feeder roads connecting the road already constructed in the Ladakh area. They are also in possession of the Malikshah region in Northern Ladakh. Another fact is that they have an air strip already at Chusul which is very near the air strip which has been constructed in our territory.

So the matter is quite serious. It shows that the Chinese are not at all having any change in their attitude.

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): If at all an atmosphere for negotiations is to be maintained, some sort of *status quo* ought to have been maintained from the other side. Unfortunately from this news, it appears that another air field is being constructed. In addition, feeder roads are there and the Chinese are entrenching themselves in the Ladakh area in a most strategic way.

So while talk of negotiations is going on, if the Chinese entrench themselves in the occupied territory, I think such talk has no meaning. In the circumstances, the whole problem must be viewed afresh.

श्री कुशवन्त राय (बेरी) : इस सम्बन्ध में मुझे इतना ही निवेदन करना है कि पिछली बार १२ मितम्बर को माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी जब बोले थे तब उन्होंने बताया था कि चीन ने हमारी भूमि पर कोई भी हवाई अड्डा नहीं बनाया है। उसके बाद यह हवाई अड्डा बनना शुरू हुआ और बन भी गया है और यह भी इसके बावजूद कि हमारी फौजें वहाँ बैठी हुई हैं। इतना होने पर भी हम इसकी कोई सूचना नहीं मिली है। आप देखें तो आपको पता चलेगा कि प्रोटेस्ट नोट पर प्रोटेस्ट नोट भेजने के बलावा हम कुछ नहीं कर रहे हैं लेकिन जो प्रोटेस्ट नोट भेजे गये हैं उनमें भक्तसाई चिन में हवाई अड्डा जो बना है उसका कोई जिक्र नहीं है। उसके बारे में कोई विरोध-पत्र नहीं भेजा गया है। ये सब ऐसी बातें हैं कि जिन पर विचार होना बहुत आवश्यक है।

Shri Vajpayee (Bairampur): The subject-matter of this adjournment motion raises a very important issue. Large chunks of Indian territory are under forcible occupation by the Chinese. Have we got any means to know whether war preparation—construction of air fields—are being made or not being made by the Chinese on Indian territory? Secondly, supposing these reports appearing in the Press are correct and the Chinese are making air fields on our territory, may I know if the

basic attitude of the Government of India towards these border incidents will change and the Chinese will be asked not to make war preparations on our territory? Otherwise, our negotiations will not smoothly run.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): I want to ask one question. What is the source

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The question raised in these adjournment motions is about a report that the Chinese authorities have built an air strip in the Aksai Chin area. That is one thing. In some reports, it is further mentioned that such an air strip has been constructed near Chusul. In the third set of reports, to which the hon. Member, Shri Braj Raj Singh referred, it is said that something was happening in the Malikshah region.

Now, the question is one of fact. I shall reply with such factual information as I have got. The inferences to be drawn from it naturally depend upon the correctness of the facts. I shall not go into inferences. Hon. Members will have a chance in four or five days' time to discuss this entire matter more fully.

So far as the Aksai Chin area is concerned, we have received no information about the building of an air field. We have tried to find out in so far as we can, and this report has not been confirmed. I cannot at the same time absolutely say that it is not so, because none of our people has been there. My information is that some travellers and others have said this in Srinagar. I do not know on what their information is based. The utmost I can say is that I cannot give any precise information about the rumour that an air strip has been constructed at Aksai Chin. We are still trying to get as much information as possible.

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

So far as the report about an air field near Chusul is concerned, that is definitely incorrect. There is no such thing.

So far as Malikshah is concerned, Malikshah is not in Ladakh at all. It is well within the Sinkiang region of China.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): I want a small explanation. The Prime Minister has been kind enough to tell us that he cannot either confirm or deny whether such an air strip has been built. We are told—and we hold the view—that Aksai Chin is an integral part of India. Now, do you not think it is an extraordinary state of affairs that we do not know what is happening on our own territory? Either we are being prevented from getting that information by foreign forces or we are not watchful enough. We would like to know what is it that prevented us from knowing what is happening on our own territory.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I just want to say....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member goes on making suggestions.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: It is very important.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Member should not interrupt in this manner.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a fact, which we may deplore, that in the Aksai Chin area there is no representative of the Indian Government. Neither is one there now nor has one been there for sometime, except that occasionally patrol parties have gone in past years; we are not there. We can go there only, more or less, at the present moment after some kind of conflict and after exhibiting high mountaineering skill etc; we can, no doubt. There is a question of controversy and dispute now. Anyhow, the only possible way of discovering that would perhaps be flying over it and taking a picture—a low flight. That

is a matter for our military authorities to consider, whether that is a right course in the circumstances to adopt or not.

Shri Vajpayee: Is it not a fact that the Indian border police have stopped patrolling the traditional border in Ladakh after the ultimatum given by the Chinese on the 26th October that if they continue to patrol on the traditional border, they will violate the MacMahon Line and will come into India?

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I want to say only one word. With all respect to my fellow-Members, I want to say..

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

With very great reluctance, I will have to ask the hon. Member to withdraw from the House if he persists in interrupting like this. I have shown very great consideration for him and his age. Now, the hon Prime Minister.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member referred to an ultimatum by the Chinese Government. I am not aware of any ultimatum. But it is true that in one of their communications they said something to the effect of what the hon. Member has said. But that has no bearing on this matter at all. This is something which has had no effect on our actions and on whatever decisions we take.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: This is only Anglo-American propaganda going on.... (Interruptions.)

Shri Vajpayee: I strongly object to what my hon. friend has said. Let him withdraw his words.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow this kind of thing.... (Interruptions.)

Shri Asoka Mehta (Muzaffarpur): I do not see how this kind of an allegation against Members could be allowed to remain on record. He must be made to withdraw his words. None of us here are working under any pressure from outside.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry that the hon. Member has made this remark. Every hon. Member is entitled to make a statement and he is a responsible person, and whatever statements he makes are entitled to credit. One hon. Member ought not to accuse another hon. Member. I would advise the hon. Member to withdraw this statement.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I withdraw it....*

Mr. Speaker: The allegation made by Raja Mahendra Pratap has been withdrawn*....

Acharya Kripalani (Sitamarhi): On September 12th, in my speech I said that no mention was made of the air strip built in our territory and the Prime Minister in his answer said.

"Some hon. Member mentioned or enquired if the Chinese had built an air field in Indian territory. There is no such thing."

At that time the Prime Minister said positively that there was no such thing. Today he is very uncertain.

Mr. Speaker: What is the date?

Acharya Kripalani: 12th September.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: My answer will stand.

Mr. Speaker: What is the place?

Acharya Kripalani: I have not mentioned the place but it was the same place. There was no question of the place. There was only the question of air field.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: My answer would still be that so far as my knowledge goes there is no such air strip on Indian territory. About the place near Chisul which I have seen recently, I can say definitely that it is not there. But about places where I have not been or any of my inform-

ants have not been for sometime, I cannot be equally definite. That is why I answered in that way. But so far as we have been able to trace, there is no reliable information to the effect that there is such an air field. We have not been able to get any person who can be considered to have any knowledge of it. This report is sometimes circulated by travellers in the mountains. I cannot absolutely deny it. May I also say that the so-called air fields here or air-strips cannot be compared with any other air strips? Nothing is done there except the removal of stones and boulders. It is a concealed thing and without any preparation something can land there. No man could deny that it may not have landed but I have no knowledge of it.

Shri Jadhav: (Malegaon): Sir, on a point of information.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed sufficient time.

Shri Jadhav: One point has to be elicited.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed so much of information to be elicited.

Shri Jadhav: Sir, before having a discussion on this border issue, may I know whether the Defence Minister will have a tour for an on-the-spot study of the situation because it is very difficult to get any information. We have not got this information. Let him go and have a study there.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If some hon. Members wish to go to these areas, we shall facilitate that.

Shri Jadhav: I am ready: I will go with the Defence Minister.

Shri Vajpayee: We are ready to go provided the Defence Minister accompanies us.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If the hon.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

Member wants in addition to the Defence Minister a company of our army to go with them to protect them all the time, it would rather upset our arrangements.

May I say, Sir, that I hope to lay on the Table of the House tomorrow the answer that has been sent to Premier Chou En-Lai to his letter.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister says that he will place on the Table tomorrow a copy of the letter which he has addressed to Mr. Chou En-Lai, which he promised to do the other day.

So far as the subject-matter of the adjournment motions is concerned, I would not have brought this up but for the fact that in our own territory, it was said that an air strip had been constructed, in addition to what all has been said and the seriousness of the situation. So far as the suggestion that the hon. Defence Minister must himself go there is concerned, he may go or he may not go. But if something happens on our territory, still to say that this suggestion is not very welcome—I am really surprised as to what will happen so far as our territory is concerned. Under these circumstances, though I am not giving formal consent to these adjournment motions, I expect that all these matters will be discussed. If any inch of our territory is taken possession of by others, the matter will be discussed in this House fully. All these matters will be discussed in the debate that we are going to have. In view of this, I am not allowing these adjournment motions.

12.16 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT RE: FINANCE MINISTER'S VISIT ABROAD

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Morarji Desai: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Statement on my visit

to Switzerland, France, the U.K., the U.S.A. and Japan during September-October, 1959. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1662/59].

AMENDMENT TO CAPITAL ISSUES (EXEMPTION) ORDER

Shri Morarji Desai: I beg to relay on the Table under sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947, a copy of Notification No. S.O. 1857 dated the 29th August, 1959, making certain amendment to the Capital Issues (Exemption) Order, 1949. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1621/59].

AMENDMENT TO COAL BEARING AREAS (ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT) RULES

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 27 of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, a copy of Notification No. S.O. 2157 dated the 18th October, 1958, making certain further amendment to the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Rules, 1957. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1663/59]

REPORTS OF TARIFF COMMISSION

Sardar Swaran Singh: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, a copy of each of the following papers:—

- (i) Report (1958) of the Tariff Commission on the review of retention prices of Tinplate produced by the Tinplate Company of India Private Limited.
- (ii) Government Resolution No. SC(A)-2(248)/57, dated the 7th September, 1959.
- (iii) Statement explaining the reasons why a copy of each of the documents at (i) and (ii) above could not be laid on the Table within the period prescribed under the