

[Mr. Speaker]

obstruct the further proceedings of the House. He has made the statement. There is no objection to any hon. Minister making a statement, but whether the action that is embedded in the statement or which the statement explains to the House is proper or not cannot be raised by way of a point of order so far as the statement is concerned. I am not in a position to suggest what further action can be taken in this regard. I can only say that the previous Finance Minister also from time to time was yielding to the pressure of public opinion. Of course, sometimes it is appreciated. Very often it is appreciated that the Finance Minister instead of being wooden is reacting to representations made from time to time. These are all matters which can be taken up during the debate on the budget. There is no point of order.

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

### SIXTY-EIGHTH REPORT

**Secretary:** The Chairman, Estimates Committee (1956-57) presented to the Speaker on 29th March, 1957, the 68th Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Defence—Ordnance Factories (Stores, Plant & Machinery and Production) which was approved at their sitting held on the same day. The Committee requested the Speaker to make corrections in the Report that might become necessary as a result of factual verification by the Ministry of Defence.

The Report has since been factually verified and minor corrections have been carried out in it under Speaker's orders. The Speaker has ordered the printing, publication and circulation of this Report under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure.

I lay a copy of the Report on the Table of the House. A few cyclo-styled copies are being made available to Members for reference in the Library. The printed copies will be available later.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

### TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT

**Secretary:** The Public Accounts Committee at their sitting held on the 22nd March, 1957 had authorised the Chairman to finalise their Twenty-fifth Report on the 'Import and Sale of Japanese Cloth'. He approved and signed the Report on the 3rd April, 1957, and presented it to the Speaker the same day. The Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of this Report under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure.

I now lay a copy of the Report on the Table of the House. A limited number of cyclostyled copies are available to Members for distribution. The printed copies will be made available later on.

**Shri Mohamed Imam (Chitaldrug):** May I know when the Reports of the Estimates Committee will come up for consideration?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is new to the House. He has to look into the rules.

**Shri Mohamed Imam:** When will these reports come up for consideration in the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Reports of the Estimates Committee are not taken up for consideration here, formally.

**Shri Mohamed Imam:** I wanted to know when these two reports will be taken up for discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** They can be discussed. But the procedure is this. The practice has not been for the House to discuss the Report of the Estimates Committee here.

The Estimates Committee is a committee of the House consisting of about 25 Members. They look into the matter, examine witnesses who appear on behalf of Government, and then they make their recommendations; and before they present their reports, they send them to the Ministry concerned for factual verification; and after that, they make their report. Then, Government have to implement those

recommendations. Wherever they find it difficult to implement any particular recommendation either on account of any change in the circumstances or on account of any mistake which might have crept in, they report once again to the Estimates Committee.

Therefore, these are the ways in which the matter is dealt with. The reports do not come up formally for discussion before the House. In the course of the general discussion of the Budget and the debate on the Demands for Grants, hon. Members can raise any particular point in accordance with the recommendations of the Estimates Committee or otherwise also, and say that such and such recommendations have not been implemented so far, and so on.

No day is allotted for discussion separately on the Report of the Estimates Committee.

**Shri Mohamed Imam:** What about the Public Accounts Committee's reports?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not able to say off hand.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

##### TOKEN STRIKE BY NAVAL DOCKYARD WORKERS, BOMBAY

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** Under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"Token strike by Naval Dockyard Workers of Bombay on the 17th May, 1957."

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** On the 8th May, 1957, the Naval Dockyard Employees' Union, Bombay, served a notice on the Captain Superintendent of the Dockyard, stating that the workers of the Dockyard would observe a token strike

on Friday, the 17th May, 1957, in support of their demands. The demands indicated in the strike notice were as follows:—

- (i) Appointment of a new Pay Commission to improve the existing scales of pay of Government employees and immediate grant of 25 per cent. of the wages as interim relief, pending the implementation of the new Pay Commission's recommendations;
- (ii) Increase in dearness allowance in accordance with the rise in the cost of living index ;
- (iii) Abolition of discrimination made between industrial and non-industrial employees, as regards leave and introduction of uniform leave rules for all Central Government employees;
- (iv) Grant of conveyance allowance, and accommodation;
- (v) Abolition of casual labour system in 217 Pet. Contract Platoon Type A, Wadala, and treatment of all workers with six months' continuous service as temporary; and
- (vi) Application of Industrial Disputes Act to Indian Air Force installations.

On the 17th May, 1957, a majority of the workers of the Dockyard staged a token strike. There is another Union of workers of the Naval Dockyard, called the Indian Naval Dockyard Workers Union. That Union had given a directive to its members that they should not refrain from work. Arrangements had been made to carry on all essential services at the Dockyard and the other units during the period of the strike. The strike was called off, and the workers resumed their duty on 18th May, 1957, at opening hours. No untoward incident has been reported.

Most of the demands made by the trade union are of a general nature.