

**RE: DEMAND FOR STATEMENTS BY
GOVERNMENT REGARDING STATE
ELECTRICITY ENGINEERS' STRIKE
IN U.P. AND HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES'
STRIKE IN DELHI**

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Sir, army is pressed in U.P. to contain the State electricity engineers' strike. Army is pressed to contain the State electricity engineers' strike, and the U.P. Minister has said, and he is on record, that he will overcome the strike. And in Delhi 220 hospital employees are dismissed. I request the Government through you, Sir, to make a statement in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. As a matter of fact, I had asked Mr. Pranab Mukherjee to speak. Before he spoke, you started speaking.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I would just like to make a small submission to the Leader of the House through you. In the morning, my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, requested me to see that the Government comes and makes a statement on the unbearable conditions in Delhi hospitals. Even today, the morning newspapers have printed a number of photographs where it is found that a patient is being examined amongst garbage. I do not know what would be the fate of that patient. I am not going to make any statement because this issue has been raised and agitated in the House by my senior colleague and Leader of the Opposition. Sir, my most respectful submission to the Leader of the House, through you, is let the Government come and make a statement during the day and let the house be apprised of the latest situation, what he is going to do to overcome the crisis created as a result of this.....(Interruptions).....

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the entire House is concerned about it.

श्री सुरेश पंचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश): यह बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट इश्यू है। सारे देश के लोग प्रभावित हो रहे हैं। मुर्दाघरों में लाशें पड़ी हैं। पैशेंट्स को कोई अटेंड नहीं कर रहा है। छोटे-छोटे बच्चे अस्पताल जाते हैं, लेकिन उन को कोई अटेंड नहीं कर रहा है। इसलिए प्रणव मुखर्जी साहब ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी इस बारे में कब स्टेटमेंट देंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House is going to say some thing.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Sir, as was conveyed to me by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I located the Health Minister, and he is here in the House but if the suggestion made by Shri Pranab Mukherjee is that the Minister should make a statement, some time will have to be given to him to make a formal statement.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In the afternoon he can make.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: After two you can fix some time.....(Interruptions).....Anyway, after two he will make a formal statement, if you like.

SHRI JIBON ROY: What about the army? What about the engineers' strike? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: In that statement he will cover all those things.....(Interruptions).....

SOME MON. MEMBERS: Let him withdraw.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Sir, the hon. Minister is prepared. If they want a formal statement to be made, some more time is required; otherwise, he can make a statement right now. It depends on you. I called him for that purpose.....(Interruptions).....

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, on power engineers' strike also.....(Interruptions).....

श्री जितेन्द्र प्रसाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, उत्तर प्रदेश में पावर इंजीनियर्स की स्ट्राइक हो रही है।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; the other things will go.(interruptions) Let us understand.
(interruptions)

SHRI JIBON ROY: No assurance is given on the power engineers' strike, Sir. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री जितेन्द्र प्रसाद: सर, यह बहुत आवश्यक है। पूरा देश इस बारे में जानना चाहता है। इस की वजह से हालत बहुत खराब है। इस बारे में सरकार की ओर से स्टेटमेंट दिया जाना चाहिए।.....(व्यवधान).....

श्री सभापति: ठीक बात है। मेरी बात सुनिए, आप ने आर्मी ही बात कही, सब बातें वह स्टेटमेंट में देंगे मैं आप के बात कहना चाहता हूँ।

Let me tell you that in our office meeting this morning, many Members just wanted certain Special Mentions to be made. Now we have only today and tomorrow for Special Mentions when I am giving all the Members chances to speak so that no party is left out. So, it was decided that we would sit today from twelve to two, whatever we can finish today, and tomorrow the rest will be finished. So, we should not intrude into the time of the hon. Members who want to make Special Mentions. And the Minister will make a statement on this issue, including your points, sometime in the afternoon.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Thank You, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta... (Interruptions)...

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: (दिल्ली) सर, 2 बजे से 8 बजे तक का समय फइनेंस बिल का है। उस के लिए आप ने 6 घंटे दिए हैं। अगर 2 घंटे इस में निकल गए तो फइनेंस बिल का क्या करेंगे? फइनेंस बिल के लिए आप ने 6 घंटे का टाइम देने के लिए कहा है।

The Finance Bill has to be passed today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. If the Members want, and the statement has to be made, the Members will have to sit long, till 9 O'clock; I don't mind. For today and tomorrow, there will be no lunch hour, and all the Special Mentions will be finished today and tomorrow. Now first is Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Decision of Madhya Pradesh Government to Handover Diamond deposits in Behradin Block in Raipur district to Mumbai based Diamond Consortium for exploration and exploitation of Diamonds.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (west Bengal): Sir, I am raising a matter of great public importance. The Madhya Pradesh Government, in my opinion, has given on lease a precious diamond ore mine for prospecting to a private sector company which appears to be a front company of Australian and South African multinationals, in total violation of the mining rules and laws of our country. It appears from facts that the diamond ore mine is situated in Behradin block of Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh. Tenders were invited by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The National Mineral Development Corporation had also given its tender, but that tender was rejected absolutely illegally. The deal has been given

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

to an unregistered consortium floated by diamond merchants who are residing in Bombay who are having very serious political clout with the administration and the Government. My question: why did they reject the tender of NMDC? The NMDC's tender was rejected because the State Government wanted to have 11 per cent of the unsubscribed equity which is illegal for a State Government to demand. Secondly, they wanted royalty which comes to more than 10 per cent which is more than the mandatory quantity of royalty that can be asked as per the law passed by the Parliament of this country. Secondly, the leasing permission for prospecting has been given or sought to be given by the State Government without prior permission of the Central Government as is statutorily required. The total turnover of such diamond ore would come to Rs. 35,000 crores. Sir*, the contract is being awarded to a consortium or a firm which is unregistered. It means there is enough scope for having suspicion in the deal that is tried to be struck. The total turnover is estimated to be Rs. 35,000 crores. What is the new company going to invest? The new company is going to invest Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 crores only. But, why hasn't the same contract been given to NMDC? We are always told that the public sector will be given a level playing ground. They had fulfilled all the preconditions laid down by tender rules. Their fault is that they did not agree to the demand made by the Madhya Pradesh Government to give unsubscribed capital and to give them more than 10 per cent royalty. Thirdly...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your three minutes are over.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, just one minute more.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (KERALA): Sir, the State Government wants more money. (Interruptions).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: But it is against law. My friend should know that Parliament has passed a law.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, the State Government wants more money. They want more revenue. What is wrong in it? (Interruptions). It is not correct.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, they can demand more money. But that demand should be as per the law. The mining law of our country stipulates that payment towards royalty should not be more than 10 per cent. If