

bomb blasts after ascertaining all the facts. The statement of the Railway Minister merely deals with the facts of the blasts. We want to know which the forces behind these blasts were, what the implications were, etc. I would request you to ask the Home Minister to make a detailed statement.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : It will be communicated to the Home Ministry.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मेरा ब्यवस्था का प्रश्न है और वह यह है कि जो पेपर सरकार लेट किया गया है उसमें कहा गया है कि मंत्री जी का स्टेटमेंट होगा। उसमें लिखा है -

"Shri C. K. Jaffer Shrief to make a statement regarding bomb explosions on five passenger trains on 6th December, 1993".

पैसेंजर ट्रेन का मतलब जनरली होता है आडिनरी पैसेंजर ट्रेन ... (ब्यवधान) जबकि विस्फोटराजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों में हुए हैं।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Notice given by the Staff Unions Representing Postal Employees to go on Strike with effect from the 7th December, 1993

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Sir, the staff unions representing postal employees of all grades and the extra-departmental agents have decided to go on strike from 7th December, 1993. The unions had given a Charter of Demands which has 27 items. Several round of discussions at the level of Postal Services Board were held with the unions and I had also discussed the issues with them on the 2nd and 5th Dec 1993.

One of the main demands relates to grant of pay scale and other benefits like

pension, leave and subsistence allowance for around three lakh extra-departmental agents. These extra-departmental agents serve mainly in the rural areas in their own villages and are engaged part-time on an average for 3 hours. They are not regular Government servants. They are paid an allowance based on their workload and are also entitled for dearness allowance, gratuity and covered by an insurance scheme. These agents can pursue their own profession, trade or avocation in addition to their postal duties. The Government during discussions have offered the appointment of an ED Committee with an independent Chairman to look into the various demands in addition to an immediate payment of Rs. 35 per month to each ED Agent as interim relief costing Government exchequer approximately Rs. 13 crores per annum.

The other demands of the unions relate to several benefits for different grades of employees including revision of pay scales of some cadres. There is a scheme of Joint Consultative Machinery in the Department of Posts for settlement of disputes and grievances which has been functioning very well. The Government, during discussions, as a goodwill measure, have offered to settle some of their demands immediately like payment of Rs. 100 per month as an allowance for those Postal Assistants who work on multi-purpose counter machines in the post offices, an increase in the Holiday Duty Allowance for Postmen and relief, to Group D officials who even on their promotion to a Group C scale would be enabled to retire at the age of 60 years. In the face of the above and the fact that the Govt. have already announced an interim relief to Central Govt. servants and the constitution of the V Central Pay Commission which will look into all demands for revision of pay scales, there is absolutely no justification whatsoever for the postal employees to go on strike causing considerable hardship and inconvenience to the people.

I have faith that the postal employees will see reason and will not go on strike, especially when I have assured that the

doors for negotiations and talks are always open. However, if the strike takes place tomorrow the Government will take action against the striking employees in accordance with the extant rules and would maintain maximum possible postal services with the aid of loyal workers. I am sure the cooperation of all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament would be available to ward off the proposed strike keeping in view the nature of the public service that the Department of Posts is rendering. Thank you!

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Sir, the clarifications can be asked tomorrow. But the strike is going to take place tomorrow and the Government is going to take action. But this statement is a threat against the striking employees. This is a threat only ... (Interruptions) ... They have made the statement. Can you postpone the clarifications to tomorrow? Six lakh employees are going to go on strike.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): That depends on the sense of the House.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have got a great objection to a word here ... (Interruptions) ... I have got a grave objection to the use of one word workers." here. It says, "... with the aid of loyal workers." What is this? Every worker is loyal. So, this word is objectionable. You can object their going on strike, but you cannot question their loyalty ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Don't say "loyal workers". All workers are loyal ... (Interruptions) ...

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : (बिहार) : अगर मंत्री महोदय का यह आइडिया है कि स्ट्राइक को सैटल किया जाय तो वे धमकियां क्यों दे रहे हैं? ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : It is just like British imperialism. What is "loyal workers"? Every worker is loyal ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI SUKH RAM : I cannot make out anything if all of you speak at the same time ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : In a strike, you will not understand anything ... (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): I am understanding. But you speak one by one.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : हमारा रिक्वेस्ट आपसे यही है कि जब रात में भी तय हो सकता है, आपकी बात हो सकती है, सेकेंड राउंड, थर्ड राउंड तो आप उसमें धमकी काहे को दे रहे हैं कि लायल वर्कर्स का ... (व्यवधान) ऐसा है...

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : लायल वर्कर क्या होता है? I take objection to that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): That is noted.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : अगर इतने आदमी डिसलायल हो जाएं तब तो देश क्या बचा । जो हड़ताल पर गया वह डिसलायल और जो नहीं गया वह लायल । इस सबको हटा दीजिए और स्टेटमेंट को अमेंड कीजिए और कहिए कि ... (व्यवधान)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : हां यह कहिए ... (व्यवधान) जो स्ट्राइक पर नहीं जा रहे हैं उनको कहिए What do you mean by 'loyal'?

श्री सुख राम : (व्यवधान) : उसका प्रश्न नहीं है। मैंने फिर भी कल भी बातें की हैं उनसे और उनकी मांगें मान ली गयी हैं, कुछ में मैंने आश्वासन दिया हुआ है। कल भी मैंने उनको कहा कि और भी आपकी जो डिमांड्स हैं "ईडी" कमेटी को रेफर कर दी जाएगी और जो मेरे लेविल पर या पोस्टल सर्विस बोर्ड के लेविल पर डिसाइड हो सकता है हम उसको तय करें। बहुत सी और चीजें मानी गयी हैं। मगर लायल वर्कर जो स्ट्राइक पर नहीं जायेंगे, तो उनको क्या

कहेंगे आप और जो स्ट्राइक पर बावजूद इसके
... (व्यवधान)

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Kindly withdraw the word. Use proper words. (Interruptions) Please withdraw this word.

श्री सुख राम : हसको कोई ऐतराज नहीं है। अगर वे स्ट्राइक पर नहीं जाते ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : The strike is the last resort of the workers.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Please withdraw this word. (Interruptions)

श्री सुख राम : मुझे इसमें कोई ऐतराज नहीं है ... (व्यवधान) अगर वे स्ट्राइक पर नहीं जाते ... (व्यवधान) देखिये, बात यह है कि मैंने इसको अभी ... (व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar) : Who are loyal workers ? Who are disloyal workers ?

SHRI SUKH RAM : All are loyal workers as long as they work for the Government.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Strike is a democratic instrument.

श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग (मध्य प्रदेश) : आप अपने बारे में कहिए कि लायल हैं कि नहीं आप । वर्कर्स को आप कैसे डिसलायल कह सकते हैं ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUKH RAM : All are loyal.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम) : आप बैठिये सारंग जी ...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : The Minister must assure that by tonight the strike is withdrawn.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : धमकी तो हटाइये आप ... (व्यवधान) धमकी को हटा दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम) : मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए आप ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUKH RAM : Please listen to me. I have sought the co-operation of all the hon. Members of this House. You please persuade them not to go on strike. I have assured them yesterday, and on 2nd of December also, I had a discussion on all their demands. And I do not see any immediate provocation because the demands have been there for some time. And there is no immediate provocation. I have discussed all these things. And I have got no objection in removing this word 'loyal'. All are loyal. But in case they resort to a strike ? I may further add that we have already written to the Labour Commissioner, and the conciliation proceedings have yet to take place. They have not waited for that also because, under the Industrial Disputes Act, these proceedings have to take place. Otherwise, the strike will become illegal. I have not used that word 'illegal'. I still wish that if all the hon. Members persuade them, I can assure this House ... (Interruptions)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : आप धमकी वाला सेन्टेंस कहिए कि हटा देंगे । जो धमकी दी है उस को हटा लीजिए ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUKH RAM : Okay. I will substitute that by, 'the law will take its own course'.

(व्यवधान)

I will substitute it. The law will take its own course.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : For years together, the workers have not resorted to any strike.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Your attitude is vindictive.

(Interruptions)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम) : मिनिस्टर साहब को स्पष्ट करने दीजिए । आप सुनिये ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUKH RAM : I have conceded your demand. Instead of 'taking action against the strike', I will say, 'the law will take its own course'. Okay. I will substitute that.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Mr. Minister, you must withdraw that word (*Interruptions*)

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : यानी आप हड़ताल जारी रखना, हड़ताल करना चाहते हैं? ... (व्यवधान) यह आपकी धमकी है और इसको आप वापस लीजिए।

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : The Minister says that the law would take its own course. This reflects the mentality of the Government. On behalf of the workers, I say that the workers are prepared to face this. They have faced so many Ministers in the past. They would face this Minister also. (*Interruptions*)

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : यह वर्किंग क्लास का अपमान है, मजदूरों का अपमान है। ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Sir, they have already ruined the entire postal system. It is in complete disorder. Nobody gets any letter, any money order. They take months together.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Sen, the postal employees are the only people who deliver letters without asking for any bribe. In all other departments, they take. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : The Government has completely ruined the system. Now, they are threatening the workers. They are taking a very adamant stand by saying that they would take firm action. This would only provoke the employees to proceed with the strike. If the Government is at all serious in settling the issue, they should soften their attitude. On the contrary, I find that such an attitude is not there. It shows their vindictive attitude when they say that action would be taken,

What are you doing to improve the system? Have you taken steps to strengthen it? (*Interruptions*) You have ruined the system and now you want to ruin the employees also. You are threatening that you would take firm action against the employees. What is this attitude? Shame on your performance. (*Interruptions*) In Parliament, you are threatening the employees. Parliament is not the place. The Minister is using the forum of Parliament. (*Interruptions*)

श्री कैलाश नारायण सारंग : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से चाहता हूँ कि क्या लोकतंत्र में स्ट्राइक पर जाना ... (व्यवधान) उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जरा ध्यान दीजिए, क्या लोक तंत्र में स्ट्राइक पर जाना डिस्लायल्टी है? यह मंत्री जी बताएं। यह आपत्ति है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : Many questions have been raised instead of clarifications. The Minister has already conceded the demand.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : It is not at all complete.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : I will take the sense of the House.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : We want to seek clarifications. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : You must withdraw that statement. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUKH RAM : I have substituted this by the words 'The law would take its own course'. The rest I am not conceding.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : We will now continue with the discussion on the Dunkel Draft Text. (*Interruptions*)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : महोदय, मेरा प्वायंट आफ् ऑर्डर है। ... (व्यवधान) अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि यह जो वाक्य है हम विद्वक्ता

करते हैं। दूसरी बार वह कहते हैं नहीं विदड़ा करते हैं। यह क्या मतलब है? ऐसा कहीं हाउस को ट्रीट करना चाहिए? ... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम) : बैठिए, मंत्री जी को सुन लीजिए, स्पष्ट हो जाएगा। प्लीज सिट डाउन, उन्हें बोलने दीजिए। वह स्पष्ट करें और अगर आप संतुष्ट हों तो ठीक है। ... (व्यवधान) ... पहले उनकी बात सुन लें। प्लीज, हां, मंत्री जी ... (व्यवधान) आपने दोनों बात सुनी वह लायल्टी-डिसलायल्टी की बात और थैट की बात। ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI SUKH RAM : I have conceded their demand to the extent of substituting this by the words 'The law would take its own course'. To that extent, I have agreed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : We will continue with the discussion on the Dunkel Draft Text. Shri S. Madhavan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : The clarifications on this statement would be taken up tomorrow.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Sir, the clarifications should be taken up today.

SHRI ASHIS SEN (WEST BENGAL) : Sir, may I say something?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : Please sit down. I have already allowed whoever wanted to make their points. (Interruptions)

Mr. Madhavan please. (Interruptions) Clarifications on these two statements would be taken up tomorrow. On this statement, some Members have already raised some points and the Minister has tried to satisfy them. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Sir, tomorrow is the strike and, therefore, we should be permitted to seek clarifications today. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : I am not allowing.

SHRI JIBON ROY (WEST BENGAL) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have a request to make.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : That is over. I have switched over to another point.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Sir, he has not withdrawn the word 'loyal'. He should withdraw it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : You cannot compel the Minister.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : We walk out in protest.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हमारी पार्टी इस मुद्दे पर वाक-आउट कर रही है।

[At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber]

DISCUSSION ON DUNKEL DRAFT TEXT—contd

SHRI S. MADHAVAN (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, about this Dunkel proposal there are a lot of controversies and different kind of interpretations being given by different experts. What the Government is going to say is that they will protect the interest of the agriculture and the pharmaceutical industry. These are the two most important sectors which are going to be affected if the Government is going to sign this agreement. The Government must explain to the country how they are going to protect the interest of these two sectors. After signing the agreement they cannot go back on this agreement. Is it Government's view that the interpretation of this Government will be incorporated in the agreement itself? The Government invited the Director General of GATT. He came to India; he gave some clarifications; but he refused to say that