

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA**The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1974**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, (have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"I am directed to inform Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Thursday, the 2nd May, 1974, adopted the annexed motion in regard to the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1974.

"I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha appointed to the Joint Committee, may be communicated to this House."

MOTION

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and the Limitation Act, 1963, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members, 30 from this House, namely:—

- (1) Shri R. V. Badi
- (2) Shri T. Balakrishnaiah
- (3) Shri Narendra Singh Bisht
- (4) Shri Chandrika Prasad
- (5) Shri A. M. Chellachami
- (6) Shri M. C. Daga
- (7) Sardar Mohinder Singh Gill
- (8) Shri H. R. Gokhale (")
- Shri Uinesh .loarder
- <|(> Shri B. R. Kavade
- (ID Shri L. D. Kotoki
- (12) Shriman I. Lakshmikanthamma.
- (13) Shri Madhu Limaye
- (14) Shri Debendra Nath Mahata
- (15) Shri V. Mayavan
- (16) Shri Mohammad Tahir
- (17) Shri Surendra Mohanty
- (15) Shri Noorul Huda
- (19) Shri D. K. Panda
- (20) Shri Prabhudas Patel

- (21) Shri K. Pradhani
- (22) Shri Rajdeo Singh
- (23) Shri M. Satyanarayan Rao
- (24) Shrimati Savitri Shyam
- (2?) Shri R. N. Sharma
- (26) Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha
- (27) Shri T. Sohan Lai
- (28) Shri Sidrameshwar Swamy
- (29) Shri R. G. Tiwari
- (30) Shri Niti Raj Singh Chaudhary

and 15 members from
Rajya
Sabha:

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee:

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the Twelfth Session of Fifth Lok Sabha;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 15 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

STATEMENT BY MINISTER**Threatened Railway Strike**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Now the Deputy Minister for Railways will make a statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPLA (West Bengal): What has happened to Mr. Fernandes?'

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: He is going to make a statement.

Nil DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): I will

make a statement . . . (Interruption) . . . I do not have any latest information about him.

SHRI RHUPESH GUPTA: Everybody is demanding from this side of the House—and also in the other House that he should be forthwith released so that negotiations would start and we will be interested in knowing that. I know you are going to make an official statement—I have no objection to that. This is a crucial thing where all are interested in the negotiations being resumed and that cannot start unless the doors of the jail are opened and he is set free to undertake the negotiations along with others.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, the Minister of Railways in his statement made in the House on 25th April, 1974, informed the House of the strike notice that has been served on the zonal Railway Administrations, on the 22nd and 23rd April, 1974, by the recognised Unions affiliated to the All India Railwaymen's Federation, and some unrecognised unions. He had on that occasion made it very clear that he will make every effort to arrive at a negotiated settlement, and myself and he appealed to all the staff in the Indian Railways to consider the present critical economic situation of the country and not to take any precipitate action which will harm the country's interests. Since then there have been long meetings of the Negotiations Committee under my chairmanship on the 27th, 29th and 30th April, 1974. All the demands were discussed at length and wherever the Government could meet the demands this has been agreed to. The Railway Minister also joined the discussions late in the evening on 30th April, and it was then decided that the minutes of the meetings, the areas where agreement had been reached and the stand on the other items should be finalised on 1st May, at a meeting in Rail Bhavan, where the representatives of all the Unions will meet the Member (Staff). This meeting on the 1st May was attended by Shri A.P. Sharma, Smt. Parvathi Krishnan and Shri Gokhale, but none of the representatives from AIRF or other unions was present. The minutes were finalised on the 1st May and they were further discussed today, the 2nd May and

accepted. The final stand on the demands has been taken.

I shall try briefly to enumerate the various demands of the Unions and the final outcome of the negotiations.

One of the main demands was revision of wages by about 75% and change in the Dearness Allowance formula. The wage bill on the Indian Railways for the year 1972-73 was about Rs. 500 crores. The decision of the Government on the Pay Commission's recommendations gives a benefit of Rs. 110 crores to the railway-men, which means a 20% increase in the wage bill. A further 75% increase in the wage bill would have meant at least Rs. 400 crores of expenditure. After the Pay Commission have gone into all aspects of "wages and Dearness Allowance" and the Government have taken a decision on it, it was not possible now to revise the wages and the Dearness Allowance formula.

One other demand was that there should be a scientific Job Evaluation of all jobs in the Railways, and this has been accepted within the framework of the Pay Commission's recommendations. Considering the large number of categories involved and the complexity of the problem this scientific job evaluation may take at least 3 years, but when once it is done it will definitely be useful and will benefit the staff.

On the question of giving bonus to the railwaymen, since the Bonus Review Committee is seized of the problem, it will be premature to take a decision until the recommendations of the Bonus Review Committee are received by the Government.

As regards the demand concerning working hours and decasualisation of casual labour, we have accepted the Miabhoy Tribunal's recommendation in toto and this gives a benefit of Rs. 35 crores. As regards employment of casual labour, while this cannot be completely precluded, considering the type and conditions of works on the Railways, we have agreed that casual labour will not be utilised in certain specified locations like workshops, yards, stations, loco sheds, etc. for works of a regular and continuous nature. We

(Shri Mohd. Shafi Qurshij

have agreed to a cadre review as early as possible at such of the above locations and create additional posts if necessary. This will benefit a large number of workers.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): All this has appeared in the press.

श्री रवी राय (उड़ीसा) : जार्ज की रिहाई के बारे में क्या हुआ? उस के बारे में आप ने कुछ नहीं कहा ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Please, let him complete.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister can turn his face that side and say all this; we shall plug our ears. They may be interested in the voice of the Minister.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: As regards the demand for the supply of subsidised foodgrains in grain shops we have agreed that arrangements will be made to open as many fair price shops as necessary so that all points on the Railways, where more than 300 staff are posted, will have fair price shops where grains will be made available at the same scale and rate that the State Government gives.

These fair price shops will be run either by cooperatives or can be licensed to and organised by staff representatives. Government will make available the necessary buildings and the staff to operate the fair price shops will be given on deputation from the Railways if required by the Co-operative Societies. If the co-operatives run into any financial difficulty for purchase of foodgrains, assistance by way of loans to the extent possible will also be given by the Railway Ministry. We have also decided to strengthen the present overseeing machinery for co-operatives and fair price shops so that effective liaison can be kept with the State Governments and the Food Corporation for supply of foodgrains to the co-operatives and fair price shops. It is not possible for the Government to run these grain shops departmentally or to give any subsidy.

The other two demands were removal of anomalies arising out of the Pay Commission's recommendations and a cadre review for Class III and Class IV staff to improve their avenues of promotion. We have accepted these two demands. The cadre review will be undertaken and completed within a period of four months. The removal of anomalies and the cadre review is expected to oenc-fit the staff to the extent of about Rs. 25 crores.

As regards the demand for withdrawal of victimization, we have to make it very clear in the House that it is not our object to victimize any railway worker for trade union activities unless it is accompanied by cases of intimidation, violence, obstructive working or other criminal offences. As regards the demand of withdrawal of victimisation, we have to make it very clear in the House that it is not our object to victimise any railway worker for trade union activities, unless it is accompanied by cases of intimidation, violence, obstructive working or other criminal offences. In fact, the Railway staff, being Government servants, have got all protection under the Discipline and Appeal Rules, as also under article 311(2) of the Constitution. Still it has been agreed that if any cases of victimisation are given to me, I will examine them and personally take a decision. It is not possible to withdraw all cases without any examination by me.

The other demand was that railway workers should be treated as industrial workers and not as Government employees. I have to make it clear in this connection that Railway employees are Government servants, but at the same time they come under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act. In view of the great national and strategic importance of the Railways, it has to be run as department of the Government and there is even a separate Budget which has to be discussed and approved by Parliament. Railways being a public utility concern serving the entire population of the country are so very vital to the economic life of the nation that its proper development, investment of sufficient funds for further expansion to meet the needs of 'raffle and inter-ministeria] co-ordination

can best be done only if it continues as a Government undertaking and hence it is not possible to make a change in this respect.

From what I have stated to you, the totality of the demands put forth by the unions is clear. With the demand for 7 per cent increase in wages, the total demand amounts to more than Rs. 500 crores. Considering that the wage bill for 1972-73 was about Rs. 500 crores, it means a 100 per cent increase in the wages. I leave it to the House to judge how it is possible for the Railways to agree to these demands in toto. There are only two alternatives—either to increase the fares and freights or to run the Railways with a huge deficit. Of the total earnings of the Railways, 30 per cent is from passenger traffic and 70 per cent from goods traffic. If the revision is to be confined to freight alone, it will mean that a 100 per cent rise in freight traffic would be necessary. Can the country afford such a steep rise in freight? On the other hand, if the freights and fares are not increased and the Railways run under a huge deficit, where is the money to come from for proper development of the Railways to carry the Fifth Plan traffic? During the Fifth Plan, the traffic is expected to go up by 40 per cent under investment of more than Rs. 2000 crores. If the Railways run under a huge deficit every year, it will not be possible and this will mean that the most essential infrastructure for the nation's economic development will not be available and then again the public of India will suffer. Therefore, both ways, whether it is increase in freights and fares or the working of the Railways at a loss, it can cause damage to the nation. Therefore, there was not other alternative but to consider only those demands which can be met without seriously jeopardising the financial resources of the Railways. Already in these negotiations we have agreed to items which will aggregate to a total of about Rs. 70 to Rs. 80 crores and, together with the pay revision, as a result of the Pay Commission's recommendations, the increased burden on the Railways will be in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 190 crores, which is about 40 per cent of the wage bill of 1972-73. The House will, therefore, appreciate that we have done

the very best in meeting the demands and that if, after this, the railway staff go on strike, they are not doing it in the national interest.

I, therefore, appeal to the House to support us in the stand that we have taken and use all your influence with the public and the railway staff to see that the wheels are kept moving and the country's economy is not shattered.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): It is a misleading and perverted statement, avoiding all the issues; wrong figures and everything wrong. It is not coming to grips.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order, the statement that we were all anxious to hear is what they are going to do with regard to one demand for the continuance of negotiations or their resumption and the release of Mr. Fernandes. Now, Sir, in this statement they have suppressed a very material information. The Railway Board has issued a circular and it is circulating amongst the officials and others and that is also responsible for the kind of provocation. The circular says that the Government will ensure: (1) full protection to all workers who come to duty during the strike period; (2) Extension of service for a period of six months to one year to those who are on the verge of retirement; (3) Advance increments to those workers who come to work during the strike period (4) Preference in employment to the children of those railwaymen who carry on the duties during the strike.

"Special recognition of service in the shape of quick promotion and other awards, etc. to those who keep the wheels moving."

Now, Sir, one fact is surprising...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Mr. Mishra admitted it in the Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister has made a statement, and I am surprised. Members opposite, even without realising it, started thumping the tables. You are a very lofty people, Sir,

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

we are all for a negotiated settlement, and negotiations cannot be conducted, as Mr. Goray rightly pointed out, by putting the leaders of the Railwaymen—one of I'm. principal men being George Fernandez—in prison. This is not the way to conduct the negotiations. On the contrary—I have seen, you know very well, Sir—even when the negotiations went on with the Communists in the Malayan jungles—the Communists were fighting against the British—Macdonald conducted the negotiations, and people were allowed to go with guarantee of immunity for those against whom death sentence was pending. They were not arrested. Here, Sir, in the midst of negotiations, they have done it, and this kind of circular is being issued. First of all, there was the cancellation of a number of trains in order to incite the public against the railwaymen, and they are trying to draw away a section of the railwaymen with this kind of circular, and it is entirely wrong. Sir, you should ask the Minister whether what I have read is correct or not.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): On the unanimous desire of the House, we are going to have a discussion on the subject tomorrow, and we are doing away with ...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What is the use of the discussion?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We did not bargain for a statement of this kind.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let me say. I will allow you The House has unanimously decided to do away with the Private Members' Business tomorrow and allow a discussion on this important subject. Is it the desire of the House now to go on discussing this statement?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, it is » perverse, misleading, wrong statement inviting the strike so that they can come down heavily upon the railwaymen. The statement he has made—what is it?

SHRI N. G. GORAY: I would ask Mr. Qureshi whether the statement that

he has made amounts to saying that the negotiations have ended. Have the negotiations ended and have you taken a final decision?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Yes. That is the position.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is our apprehension. In the statement they have locked the door for negotiations. Now, they want to dictate terms to the railwaymen.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैं केवल इतना पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दोपहर जिस समय सभी दलों के सदस्यों ने जार्ज फर्नान्डेस की गिरफ्तारी पर प्रश्न किए तो उसके उत्तर में मंत्री महोदय ने यह कहा था कि आज सायंकाल को जब सदन समाप्त होने लगेगा तब मैं एक वक्तव्य दूंगा। हम लोगों को यह आशा थी कि जार्ज फर्नान्डेस की गिरफ्तारी के संबंध में मंत्री जी यह बताएंगे कि किन परिस्थितियों में वे गिरफ्तार हुए, उनको छोड़ेंगे या नहीं छोड़ेंगे, लेकिन उस संबंध में एक शब्द भी न कह कर, वे सब बातें जो अब तक समाचारपत्रों में आ गई हैं, उन्हीं बातों को फिर दुहरा दिया। मैं आपके माध्यम से केवल यह जानना चाहूंगा, वे स्पष्ट रूप से इस बात को बताएं, कि इस प्रश्न पर एक घंटे के लगभग चर्चा हुई, और सभी दलों के और सत्ताधारी दल के भी जो सदस्य हैं उन सबने चिंता व्यक्त की इस प्रश्न पर मंत्री महोदय मौन हैं, क्यों वक्तव्य देना नहीं चाहते? तो कृपा करके इसके संबंध में भी कुछ शब्द कहें यह और बताएं कि यह जो बातचीत चल रही थी वह बातचीत क्या इस प्रश्न के साथ समाप्त हो जाती है या चालू रहेगी? इसी के संबंध में हम मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहते हैं।

श्री रबी राय : मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि आज जो अभी मंत्री जी ने बयान दिए हैं, यह हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में आज सुबह हम लोग पढ़ चुके हैं। मैं आपके जरिए कहना चाहूंगा : क्या आज दोपहर हम लोग जो सम्मिशन किए, उसका कोई मतलब नहीं है? सारे सम्मिशन को नजरअंदाज करके मंत्री महोदय ने कल जो वक्तव्य वह दे चुके हैं और अखबार में दोबारा उसको हम पढ़ चुके हैं यही सब बता रहे हैं। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि अभी मंत्री-महोदय बताएं कि जार्ज फरनान्डेस को कहां गिरफ्तार किया गया है, वे कहां हैं? उनकी रिहाई करके फिर नेगोशियेटेड सेंटिलमेंट की तरफ उनको लाने के लिए क्या विचार कर रहे हैं?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Mr. Tyagi, one from each party. Mr. Niren Ghosh.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: All of us wanted to know about George Fernandes, Also I know of another name, Mr. P. K. Barooah, General Secretary, All India Loco Running Staff Association. He has also been arrested. How many others have been arrested I do not know. These two names have come to me. To this there is no reply.

Another thing. Today at 10 a.m. negotiations were to be resumed. Now the statement says that the negotiations have ended. That means it was a lying statement in order to side-track the issue. And meanwhile they prepared their machinery to sweep down on them. They are provoking.

श्री नवल किशोर (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, जहां तक रेलवे इंप्लॉईज की डिमांड्स का सम्बन्ध है वह तो उन्होंने सब बता दीं। ये चीजें तो अखबारों में भी आ गई। मैं सिर्फ एक बात जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार न छोड़े,

छोड़े लेकिन यह तो बतायें कि किन सर्कमस्टेंस में, किन परिस्थितियों में उनको गिरफ्तार किया गया? केन्द्र के आदेश से किया गया था कैसे। ऐसे मौके पर उनको गिरफ्तार किया गया तो उसके बारे में भी कुछ इत्तिला सदन को देनी चाहिए।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is an insult to the House. You should protect the dignity of the House. What did he take the permission for? What happened to Mr. George Fernandes? Now in the statement he does not even make a simple reference to him.

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: The fact is that I do not have full information about who are the people who have been arrested. This is a fact that Mr. George Fernandes has been arrested. But it would be difficult for me to say under what Act he has been arrested. I do not have the details.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point order. There are occasions when the Chair should come to the rescue of the House.

श्री रबी राय : मैंने आपको जानकारी दे दी कि दिल्ली की अथारिटी पर उनको गिरफ्तार किया गया।

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. George Fernandes has not been arrested by the Delhi Junta. He has been arrested by this Government. The Railway Minister is a part of this Government. The Home Minister sits there.

श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैं सिर्फ इतना बताना चाहता हूं कि स्टेटमेंट मंत्री महोदय का यह पर आया और उन्होंने एक ओर जार्ज फरनान्डीस को गिरफ्तार किया उसका भी कारण नहीं दिया तो ये जो नेगोशियेशन हैं ये खत्म करके आपने इस प्रकार का ऐक्शन लेना शुरू किया है? नेगोशियेशन की गुंजायश अभी है या नहीं है, यह तो बतायें।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरेशी : एक ही बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो तफसीलात गिरफ्तारियों की हैं, कल जब बहस होगी तो उसमें मैं रखूंगा। हमने नेगोशियेशन के दरवाजे बन्द नहीं किये हैं। हम इस वक्त भी नेगोशियेशन के लिए तैयार हैं।

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What is the meaning of this? Are you ridiculing?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: There is limit to a joke.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): It is a question of time. The question is when do you discuss a thing, now or tomorrow. The Minister promises to place all the facts tomorrow in the course of the discussion. And I think you should be satisfied with it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No, no. What is there in that statement?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: Point of order.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: He is making misleading statements here. (Interruptions). He talks of negotiations, but at the same time puts the negotiators behind the bars. What does it mean? (Interruptions). He is bringing the House into contempt.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: I have already asked the House whether it is the desire of the House to go into the details now.

HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You seem to have a queer idea of our desire. Our desire is to discuss the whole situation tomorrow. But we also want to discuss the question of Mr. George arrest.

श्री रबी राय : मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ आर्डर यह है कि लोक सभा की लाइब्रेरी में जो स्पाट न्यूज आती है उस में यह स्पष्ट लिखा है कि : George Fernandes has been arrested by the Delhi Police under the orders of the Government of India. मैं आप के माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार के आर्डर से वह गिरफ्तार किये गये तो इतनी भी खबर अगर वह राज्य सभा के सदस्यों को नहीं देंगे कि किस के आदेश पर गिरफ्तारी हुई तो क्या यह उचित होगा ?

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न यह है कि विपक्ष में इतने विद्वान माननीय सदस्य बैठते हैं और वह जानते होंगे कि किसी व्यक्ति की गिरफ्तारी रेलवे मंत्री या रेलवे विभाग नहीं करा सकता। यह केवल गृह विभाग करा सकता है और किसी की गिरफ्तारी और किसी की रिहाई के बारे में कोई बयान गृह मंत्री दे सकते हैं, रेलवे मंत्री नहीं दे सकते। तो इस लिए मैं आप के माध्यम से निवेदन करूंगा कि जार्ज फरनान्डीस की रिहाई के बारे में या उन की गिरफ्तारी के बारे में वह गृह मंत्री जी से सवाल करें।

(Interruptions)

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने केवल यह कहा कि जार्ज फरनान्डीस की गिरफ्तारी के बारे में जो तफसीलात हैं वह मैं कल दे सकूंगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि यही शब्द आप ने कहे हैं। तो इस का मतलब यह हुआ कि जब आज प्रातः 4 बजे गिरफ्तारी हुई है और जैसा कि मेरे मित्र कह रहे हैं कि गिरफ्तारी गृह मंत्री या गृह मंत्रालय के आदेश से होती है, तो मैं उन की बात को स्वीकार कर लेता हूँ, हालांकि रेलवे ऐक्ट में भी

गिरफ्तारी के कुछ नियम हैं लेकिन इस विषय पर जब मुबह चर्चा हुई थी तो गृह मंत्री श्री मिर्धा जी भी यहां मौजूद थे और कुरेशी साहब भी मौजूद थे और उस समय कुरेशी साहब ने कहा था कि सायंकाल मैं सदन के सामने अपना वक्तव्य दूंगा। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि एक सरकार जिस के अलग अलग मंत्रालय हैं उन में आपस में क्या इतना तालमेल नहीं है कि वह पूरी सूचना दे सके। कल पर वह इस बात को टाल रहे हैं तो इस का अर्थप्राय तो यह है कि वह कुछ तथ्यों को छिपाना चाहते हैं।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you should ask him. You are now in possession of the Chair. I am not in possession of the Chair. You should ask him. Sir, are you to believe that he does not know the circumstances under which George Fernandes has been arrested? We credit you with great intelligence. It is a matter of commonsense. Do you think they do not know? AH of them know: they are talking. All of them know. Because of reasons of convenience, they are not expanding on the subject, because they know then everything will be out. Mr. Qureshi, take an oath here and say you do not know how George Fernandes has been arrested. You are fully posted with all the information. Sir, you ask him. All right, forget the oath. Ask Mr. Qureshi a simple question...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): You are prompting me?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am submitting to you. Ask him: "Mr. Qureshi, do you know broadly the circumstances under which Mr. George Fernandes has been arrested?" "Will you please then share the information with the House?" These two simple questions you ask.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Mr. Minister, you have known the feelings of the House, the feelings of the Opposition. Will you be able to add to their information?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: I have known their feelings...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Will you be able to add anything?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Not today.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why not?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Tomorrow he will do it. I cannot force him.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You did not ask him to do it tomorrow or the day after.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): But I cannot force the Minister.

The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at thirty-one minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 3rd May, 1974.