

for this. But such things are happening under her very nose and with her very name they are dislocating one of the most important departments of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goray.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It should be reviewed and this order should be reconsidered

#### REFERENCE TO ARREST OF SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): Sir, you know that I am not given to exaggeration but I must say that I unreservedly condemn the action of the Government which has arrested Shri George Fernandes this morning at Lucknow. This came to me as a shock because early morning in the papers I read that the negotiations were going on and the representatives of the railwaymen were expected to sit with the Minister—Shri Qureshi fortunately is here—at 10 O'Clock and the negotiations were entering a very crucial phase. We know that the strike is likely to take place from the 8th of May and it was the desire of the entire House, not only of one party, but of the entire House that if the strike could be averted it should be averted. Now in order to avert the strike negotiations were necessary and the negotiations were taking place. While the negotiations were taking place, right in the midst of the negotiations the Government has in its own wisdom thought it fit to arrest Shri Fernandes who is the most prominent of the railway leaders who are carrying on the negotiations. I really do not know whether the Government is playing a trick on the railwaymen because this is nothing short of treachery that you invite the representatives of the railwaymen to sit across the table, you carry on negotiations, the negotiations were due to be held today at 10 O'clock in the morning and in the early hours of the morning you arrest the most prominent leader of the railwaymen, namely Shri George Fernandes. I do not know whether Mr. Qureshi knew about it or whether the

two Ministries of the Government are playing two different tactics. The Railway Ministry on its own is trying to negotiate with the railwaymen saying that all their demands will be fairly considered—some of their demands have been met, that is what they give out in the papers—and on the other hand the Home Ministry instructs its own officers to arrest Shri George Fernandes thereby sabotaging the entire effort I charge the Government with sabotage because this is nothing short of sabotage. Does the Government want that there should be a strike? Is this that they are driving at? Do they want that this sort of confrontation should take place and they get an opportunity to crush the railway people throughout the country? I really do not understand whether the Government has lost its head. They know that if the railway strike takes place the entire economy of the country is going to be crippled; it is going to be destroyed. Therefore in the interests of the economy of the country, in the interests of the industrial development of the country, in the interests of the starving millions of this country it was necessary to avert the strike and all of us were doing best to see that if the strike could be averted was averted. Now in the midst of this a bomb shell has been thrown. I would like to know from the Government or Mr. Qureshi who has spent so many hours: I sympathise with him; though he lost his father immediately he came back, and he was entrusted with these negotiations. I asked Mr. Lalit Narayan Mishra why it is that he did not do it and he said well, Mr. Qureshi is there: I have full faith in him and in his capacity and if it is necessary I am always available. Sir, that day—I do not know whether you were here—Mr. Lalit Narayan Mishra said that he was eager to avoid the strike. The Railway Minister says that he is eager to avert the strike, the Government says that the strike should not take place, we also say that if the strike could be averted it should be averted and we all try to do it but you arrest the most prominent of them who were called here for negotiations. What will happen now? I am quite sure it will not be possible to carry on the negotiations in the absence of Shri George Fernandes. Therefore there will be no negotiations. Does this mean that the Government is

really challenging the people that if you dare, you go on strike? This is not the way. I have been in the thick of the national movement right from 1930; I have seen negotiations going on between the hated British Imperialist Government and the leaders of the national movement but never once did the British Government arrest the leaders of the national movement when negotiations were taking place. This is something new; our own Government has created a sort of a new precedent where you go on talking with the leaders and you go on arresting them also. Who is going to believe in your honesty, in your straight forwardness? Therefore, I would appeal, even now if you really want to avert the strike, if you want to create faith in the minds of the railway people that you are honest about your professions then I request the Government to release Mr. Fernandes and start the negotiations where they have been cut short.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sardesai. I shall call as many Members as I can. I have taken note of all those hands which have been raised. I would request Members to be very brief, as there are several Members.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Why brief? Members will not be brief over a matter like this. They will speak as long as they like. The Home Minister should come here and explain. (*Interruptions*)—Why should they be brief?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Because several Members want to express. Do you want to deny several Members speaking?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir.  
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You take your seat now. Now, I have called Mr. Sardesai. He has the floor. The rest of the Members will keep silence.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI: (Maharashtra): I will be brief and the reason why I would like to be brief is that every single Member here should get a chance to protest against this. I want as many Members as possible to speak and protest against this arrest. The news about the arrest of Mr. George Fernandes is

extremely shocking. This is not an occasion when I should be brief, but I would be brief. What is the whole situation? As Mr. Goray has pointed out, there is a limit. I call it nothing less than a fraud. Time and again this Government has assured us and the Railway Minister has said: I want no strike. I want negotiations. I have an open mind. I want a reasonable settlement and I do not want a crisis. The negotiations have been going on all these days. We have also been in the working-class movement for long. What is the position? When negotiations are going on, at such a time you arrest the most prominent leader of the workers. Anybody who knows anything about the trade union movement knows this that this kind of act is a provocation to the workers to go on strike. Do you know something about the working class movement? All over India this kind of feeling is going on. When negotiation was going on, when every effort was being made by the leadership of the Railwaymen's Central Co-ordination Committee to arrive at a negotiated settlement, this has been done. Mr. Dange declared and Mr. Fernandes declared that they would make every effort to see that a settlement was arrived at. In such an explosive situation you go and arrest him, who is a prominent leader. What is the meaning? The only meaning is that you want the negotiations to end. It cannot mean anything else. Surely the Co-ordination Committee is not going to negotiate with Mr. George Fernandes being in jail. The negotiations were continuing and yet you arrest him. That means unilaterally you arrest him and you want to end the negotiations unilaterally. On your side you want to provoke the railwaymen to go on strike. If they go on strike, as you know, the entire working-class will stand by them. There is not the remotest doubt about it. You want to provoke them and you want to suppress the agitation. Then you want to give homilies about the crisis this and that. Are we going to take these homilies? This is the way you are dealing with our leaders. When all sorts of efforts are being made to put out the fire you are pouring oil into the fire. This is what you are doing and then when the fire is there you ask why the fire is there. Mr. George Fernandes must be released. Wherever he is, bring him out. Then you

can have some negotiations. Otherwise, if the strike comes you can be sure that the entire trade union movement, the All India Trade Union Congress and the Communist Party of India will stand solidly by the workers and see that they fight and win. Let this be a warning to this Government.

**SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh):**

This is a matter of very great magnitude. Actually today the representatives of the workers were invited for negotiations at 10 A.M. Mr. L. N. Mishra had informed them earlier that the Prime Minister would be arriving today and after her arrival she would be apprised of the progress of the negotiations and then a final decision would be taken. In the meanwhile, we are hearing this news of his arrest. Sir, workers' representatives, representatives of all the sections of railwaymen are eager for a negotiated settlement. If there is a railway strike, the dimension, the magnitude, of the strike is unpredictable. Workers are willing, workers are eager, are prepared to avert this strike, and the Government is forcing the strike upon the workers by precipitating the matter through such arrests. This is a breach of trust as Shri Goray said. This is treachery. So I request you—this is a problem of such a magnitude that we here in this House cannot sit as helpless spectators watching the national tragedy like Neros fiddling while Rome is burning—to adjourn the House till the Government comes out with a proper solution and if the Government is incompetent to have that proper solution, the only honourable course for the Government would be to resign and quit and not sit tight in office.

**श्री महावीर त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश):**

मेरा यह विचार है कि इस पर आगे चलने से पहले मिनिस्टर साहब का स्टेटमेंट हो जाए ताकि सारे सरकार-स्टासिज मालूम करने के बाद कोई हम अपने कामेंट दे सकें। मैं आपसे दख्वास्त करूंगा कि मिनिस्टर साहब की स्टेटमेंट पहले करा दी जाए।

**श्री रबी राय (उड़ीसा):** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डेज गिरफ्तार

कर लिए गए हैं। हमको आश्चर्य इसलिए नहीं हुआ कि 27 तारीख को जब प्रधान मंत्री ईरान के लिए रवाना हुईं तो राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों के नाम एक चिट्ठी लिख गई और उसमें यह साफ था कि आप लोग तैयार रहिए, ला एंड आर्डर को कंट्रोल करने के लिए। और मजदूरों की जो मौलिक मांगें हैं उनको रिजैक्ट करके चली गई।

सवाल यह है कि इधर पहले से ही दो मौ मौतों को वापस कर लिया गया और दूसरी तरफ प्रधान मंत्री मुख्य मंत्रियों को चिट्ठी लिख गई। उसमें साफ जाहिर था कि आप इस सिचुएशन के लिए तैयार रहें। इस सदन में खुद रेल मंत्री यह बहाना लगाते रहे कि हम लोग तैयार हैं उनके साथ वार्तालाप करने के लिए। प्रधान मंत्री के इस काम से यह सिद्ध होता है कि वह strike breaker है और Arch reactionary

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब हम प्रजातंत्र चलाना चाहते हैं तो जब जार्ज फर्नान्डेज कुछ मजदूरों की सभा में लखनऊ में भाषण करके सो रहे थे तो भोर तीन बजे उनको जगाकर गिरफ्तार क्यों कर लिया गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कैसे इन सरकार की नीयत के ऊपर विश्वास किया जाएगा। इस सरकार की नीयत के ऊपर कोई विश्वास नहीं करेगा। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ आज यकीन नहीं है प्रधान मंत्री पर भी क्योंकि 27 तारीख को प्रधान मंत्री जाने से पहले मुख्य मंत्रियों के नाम एक चिट्ठी लिखकर उनको प्रोवोक करके गई कि आप तैयार रहिए। पुलिस आपके साथ है, और अगर जरूरत पड़े तो मिलिटरी आर्मी को भी इस्तेमाल कर लें। इन 20 लाख रेलवे मजदूरों के प्रति उन्होंने विश्वासघात किया। मैं

[श्री रबी राय]

आपके जरिए सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह 20 लाख मजदूरों की जो मौलिक मांगें हैं उन पर सोच-विचार करे, ठंडे दिल से। इसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि जार्ज फरनान्डीज को तुरन्त रिहा किया जाए और माफी मांगी जाए इस सदन के सामने, क्योंकि सदन के सामने गलत बयानी की गई। हम से कहा गया कि हम लोग तैयार हैं वार्तालाप करने के लिए लेकिन वह कुछ नहीं किया गया। मैं आपके जरिए मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर सचमुच में वह वार्तालाप करना चाहते हैं तो तुरन्त फरनान्डीज साहब को रिहा किया जाए हाऊस उठने से पहले और इस सदन से माफी मांगी जाए।

1 P.M.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): All our worst premonitions have come true, those that we uttered the other day. I charge the Government that the Government is deliberately following a policy to provoke a strike so that this is the thinking of the Railway Board that 'provoke the strike and then the entire machinery of repression including the Army and the BSF which is a parallel army can be brought down upon the workers so that the workers cannot agitate for their demands for a pretty number of years.' This is the warning I gave. It has come true; otherwise how could the trains be cancelled putting the people to distress in order to set up the people against the workers? The people have seen through your game and they will stand solidly behind the workers. I repeat the point of Mr. Rabi Roy. When negotiations were going on the Prime Minister of the country said that bonus would not be given and went out. It was one of the crucial points to be negotiated. As an interim measure, the two crucial issues are bonus and parity with the public sector undertaking. So, I say the Government is a saboteur. It is an agent provocateur, a saboteur, saboteur in the sense that they want to sabotage whatever remains of the entire economy of the country, agent pro-

vocateur in the sense that they are provoking the working class so that they can come down heavily on them.

Sir, they talk of right reaction. It is they who are right reactionaries. This is right reaction. This is a declaration of war against the working class and the entire people of India. Shri P. K. Barooah, the General Secretary of the All-India Loco Running Staff Association has been arrested along with hundreds of others I do not know. More than a thousand have been victimised. When the negotiations are going on, not only Mr. George Fernandes, the President of the recognised Federations of All-India Railwaymen, but hundreds of others, along with Mr. P. K. Barooah, have been arrested. It is a declaration of war against the working class. If you want to provoke I do not know what the railwaymen will do. I may not be their leader, but I am also one of the leaders. I say: release Mr. George Fernandes and all others. Withdraw the victimisation orders and start negotiations in a proper atmosphere on these two crucial issues. If you do not do that, I do not know what the railwaymen will do. If they vote for strike, not only they and the entire working class, but the 55 crores of the peoples of India will stand behind them.

Tomorrow there is going to be bundh at three or four places. It would be an all India protest action and that would be a beginning of the end of this Government and nothing less because you are deliberately trying to plunge the country into chaos.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, yesterday when the Railway Minister and the Minister of Steel and Mines appealed to the railwaymen on the radio not to go on strike and when we came to know that the negotiations will start today with the Railway Minister and the workers' representatives, we had hoped that the catastrophe to the Indian economy would somehow be averted. Today even as I talked to many employees and trade union representatives, in their heart of hearts nobody wants a strike because they know that this will bring a great difficulty to the nation. But, Sir, today when I came to Parliament and came to know about the arrest of Mr. George

Fernandes, I was shocked. Could this be an approach to settle the issues? I would like to agree with Mr. Goray when he said that it is a treachery to arrest people. Has this arrest been made in the interest of Mr. George Fernandes to make him a hero? Has this arrest been made in the interest of workers? Has this arrest been done in order to get the condemnation of the Government which we all want somehow to be saved?

Sir, the other day when many Members asked as to what is their strategy and why he is not in negotiation with the employees, he said we have a definite strategy. First the Member, Railway Board, will meet the representatives. Then the Deputy Railway Minister will meet them. And then, if nothing comes out of it, the Railway Minister will meet them. Is this the way of meeting the representatives? He has arrested George Fernandes. Can any man in his senses think that after the arrest, they can have negotiations? I do not know what this tactic or strategy is. Is it not bad tactics or bad strategy? Jawaharlal Nehru once said in the Lok Sabha, "We must not only be fair, but we must also appear to be fair." By this act we have given the alibi that the Opposition people wanted to say that we are responsible for damaging the economy of the country and the Government has taken the first step to damage the economy. I do not agree with Mr. Rabi Ray and others who condemn the Railway Board or the Railway Ministry for reducing the number of trains. I think the Railway Board has the right and the Railway Ministry has the right to reduce the number of trains to prepare themselves for any strike. So I do not agree with them. But, Sir, this act today is a lunatic act. All those who have worked in public life will consider it a lunatic act. If the Railway Minister cannot deal with the problem, let him give it to somebody else. But the country cannot afford a strike. All energies must be diverted for the purpose of avoiding this strike. All Opposition parties, all Congressmen, everybody must see that this strike does not take place. It can be done at this stage only if Mr. George Fernandes is released. I think if Mr. Qureshi had been given all the powers, probably a solution might have been found.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: They have made a fool of him by asking him to negotiate and then arresting Mr. Fernandes.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I think better sense will prevail and greater patriotism will demand that the strike does not take place and George Fernandes is released. (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, whatever my friends may feel, I feel that it is an act which needs condemnation and I condemn this act. I condemn this arrest. I hope even now better sense will prevail and all parties will somehow find ways and means to see that this strike does not take place and the country is saved from an economic catastrophe.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shahi.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बात पर एतराज है कि जार्ज फर्नान्डेज को क्यों गिरफ्तार कर लिया जब नीगोशिएशन जारी थे। श्रीमन्, मैं 27 तारीख को गोरखपुर गया था और गोरखपुर में देखा कि पूरे रेलवे स्टेशन पर, पूरे रेलवे एरिया में जो चार-पांच मील में फैला हुआ है, बड़े बड़े पोस्टर लगे हुए हैं कि हमें हर हालत में स्ट्राइक पर जाना है। श्रीमन्, मैं भी रेलवे कालोनी में घूमता हूँ मुझे वीसियों बैचेज ऐसे मिले जो मेरे परिचित साथी लोग हैं, दस-दस, पांच-पांच के बैचेज में यूनियन के लोग रेलवे कालोनी में घूम रहे हैं 24-25 तारीख से और रेलवे वर्कर्स को पर्सुएड कर रहे हैं हड़ताल पर जाने के लिए। उनकी तैयारी करीब करीब पूरी है हड़ताल पर जाने के लिए। वे यह साफ कहते हैं कि नीगोशिएशन तो एक टाइम गेन करने की चीज है, हड़ताल पर हमें जाना है क्योंकि हमारी मांगों को सरकार मानेगी नहीं। रेलवे यूनियन के लोग, रेलवे फेडरेशन के लोग यह मान चुके हैं—पता नहीं क्यों और कैसे—कि सरकार उनकी मांगों को नहीं मानेगी और उन्हें हर

[श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही]

हालत में हड़ताल पर जाना है। उसी को अपने सामने रखकर उनकी सारी तैयारियाँ हो रही हैं। ऐसी हालत में, श्रीमन्, मैं तो यह बहुत अदब से गुजारिश करूंगा कि जब ये लोग बार पथ पर आ गये हैं और लड़ाई की मुकम्मिल तैयारी कर रहे हैं तो आप इस गवर्नमेंट से क्या यह उम्मीद करते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट साइलेंट स्पेक्टेटर की तरह बैठी रहेगी और आपको इस बात की इजाजत देगी कि आप सारे देश की सारी मशीनरी को ठप्प कर दें? आज रेलवे हड़ताल का मतलब यह होगा कि बिहार में गल्ला महंगा है, और दूसरे क्षेत्रों में गल्ला महंगा है, कोयला नहीं मिल रहा है, सीमेंट नहीं मिल रहा है, सारी मशीनरी को आप ठप्प कर देंगे। इस हालत में आप लड़ाई करते हैं, उसके लिए तैयारी करते हैं तो सरकार से आप कैसे यह उम्मीद करते हैं कि वह चुपचाप दर्शक बनकर देखा करेगी?

श्रीमन्, माननीय गोरे जी ने कहा है कि सरकार ने सेनोटान किया है। यह सरकार की पायस ड्यूटी है कि वह स्ट्राइक को सेनोटान करे। अगर सरकार ने यह कदम उठाकर स्ट्राइक को सेनोटान किया है तो ठीक किया है। उसका कर्तव्य है कि स्ट्राइक को सेनोटान करे। माननीय सरदेसाई ने कहा कि वर्कर्स की ड्यूटी है, स्ट्राइक करना वर्कर्स का अधिकार है। वर्कर्स का अधिकार स्ट्राइक जरूर है, मगर मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ भूपेश गुप्ता और सरदेसाई को कि डांगे साहब ने नया फेडरेशन कायम किया है।

....*Interruption*.... डांगे साहब का जार्ज फरनाडिज़ में विश्वास नहीं है तो भूपेश गुप्ता कैसे कह रहे हैं?

....*Interruption*.... आप अगर रेलवे वर्कर्स का हित चाहते हैं तो आपको एक फेडरेशन में रहना चाहिए था, आपने

क्या पैरलल फेडरेशन बनाया? उनके फेडरेशन को आप सेनोटान करना चाहते हैं।

इसलिए श्रीमन्, मैं यह कह रहा था कि सरकार ने जो कदम उठाया है वह उचित कदम है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nawal Kishore now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I have a submission to make. I think it involves the privilege of the House, or, anyhow, the dignity of the House. You will remember that the honourable Minister for Railways and the honourable Minister who is present here also had made a statement and conveyed to us, through you,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. What is your submission?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am coming to that. They said they are interested in having a negotiated settlement and that they were looking forward for a settlement. We would like to know—I hope you will not treat it as a minor matter. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not treated it as a minor matter. In spite of the fact that usually when special mentions are made, only the person who takes permission of the Chairman is allowed to speak, I had made an exception today. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Very rightly so. As you know very well, permission is given on one matter to one person only and others are not allowed to join; otherwise, the Chair would not be the Chair; it would be topsy-turvy. You are very right in giving permission to all Members of the House, Opposition leaders and others, to speak on this subject because we have a point of view. We have not been consulted at all. The provocation came. In fact, you should have a discussion. I demand you stop the proceedings of the House now and start a discussion of the matter. The Government cannot act in this manner, in this unilateral way. Do they alone constitute

this nation? Or, are we a part of it also? Are we not interested in running the Government of the country? Have they not made it clear that they stand for a negotiated settlement? I attended a conference with Mr. George Fernandes at a political level, and all of us came to the conclusion that there should be a negotiated settlement and every effort should be made in that direction. Now who has violated it? Not Mr. George Fernandes, not the trade union leaders. Last night I was told that there will be a discussion at 10 o'clock. Government does not even care to inform us. And they go and arrest, like a thief, the leader of the trade union movement. This is, Sir, downright provocation. They said, "We will wait till the Prime Minister comes". As far as I understand, she has not landed at the Palam airport. To forestall even that, they have arrested these people. They had decided to break the negotiations and to take this provocative step, so that they can come up with stronger methods. Shri Dikshit the day before yesterday in a speech in the Lok Sabha gave the green signal when he said that MISA would be used to deal with the situation. The hon. Minister Shri Qureshi is here. I would request you to rise to the occasion and to permit a discussion on the situation. Let a debate be held so that the whole nation will know who is right and who is wrong, who is reasonable and who is unreasonable, who stands for provocation and who stands for negotiation. They should know and therefore I request Shri Qureshi to make a statement and not to go away without making it. We should be allowed to discuss this matter. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After Shri Nawal Kishore speaks, I will call upon the Minister to make a statement.

श्री नवल किशोर (उत्तर प्रदेश) .  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे सामने दो ईश्यूज हैं जो बिल्कुल डिफरेंट हैं। एक ईश्यू तो यह है कि जार्ज फरनान्डीज को गिरफ्तार किया गया और दूसरा ईश्यू यह है कि रेलवेमेन्स का स्ट्राइक 8 मई से होने वाला है। आज मैंने अखबार में पढ़ा कि मिस्टर कुरेशी साहब की बातचीत जो थी उसमें बुनियादी

ईश्यूज पर ही डेडलाक हो गयी। अगर कुरेशी साहब ने यह स्टेटमेंट दे दिया होता कि इस के बाद निगोजियेशन्स नहीं होंगे और फिर सरकार ने यह कदम उठाया होता तो शायद मैं समझता हूँ कि इस का कुछ औचित्य होता। आप ने खुद यह कहा कि दस बजे फिर निगोजियेशन्स होंगे। एक बात मैं साफ कर दू कि जहाँ तक स्ट्राइक का संबंध है मैं इस का गैर कानूनी मानता हूँ, ऐंटी नेशनल मानता हूँ और डिमांड्स को फैंटेस्टिक मानता हूँ। लेकिन जब आप निगोजियेशन्स कर रहे हैं तो जब तक निगोजियेशन्स कंसीलीटी ब्रेक डाउन न कर जायें उस के बीच में, ऐसे मौके पर एक ऐसे व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तार करना कि जो चेयरमैन हो नेशनल कोआर्डिनेशन कमेटी का, बड़ी गार्टसाइटेडनेस की बात हुई और जैसा कि कुछ दोस्तों ने कहा, खामखाह एक प्रोवोक करने की बात हुई। मैं देख रहा हूँ कि दो, तीन साल से आये दिन रेलवेमेन्स का स्ट्राइक होता है और यह सरकार की कमजोर नीतियों का नतीजा है। पिछली दफा लोकोमेन का स्ट्राइक हुआ। उन की यूनियन रिकग्नाइज्ड नहीं थी, लेकिन आप ने सरेंडर किया और उन की हिम्मत बढ़ गयी और मैं जानता हूँ कि अगर स्ट्राइक हुआ तो देसाई साहब ने तो कहा कि 55 करोड़ आदमी आप के खिलाफ खड़े होंगे, लेकिन मैं आप को यकीन दिलाता हूँ कि 55 करोड़ आदमी इस स्ट्राइक का मुकाबला करेंगे। हिन्दुस्तान की जो इकोनामी है वह चन्द आदमियों के हाथों में रहे और वह डेमोक्रेसी को डिस्ट्राय करे यह नहीं हो सकता। इस लिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह बात सब लोग जान ले। हा, मैं इस से इत्तफाक करता हूँ कि जार्ज फरनान्डीज को निगोजियेशन्स के दौरान गिरफ्तार करना गलत कदम है और सरकार को चाहिए कि

[ श्री नवल किशोर ]

उनको छोड़ दे और निगोसियेशन्स किए जाय खत्म हो जाय तो दूसरी बात है। सरकार ने जो इकोनामी मेजर्स उठाये हैं वह कम हैं, वह और ज्यादा होने चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Qureshi.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): Before the House adjourns today, I make a statement. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: On what? Will there be a negotiated settlement or not?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Delhi): This is an outrage. . . (Interruptions) There should be a discussion. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will they be released or not?

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Does it mean that the negotiations have ended?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Release all of them and start negotiations. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: Let the Government release Mr. George Fernandes.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Yes, we want his release. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: We want a reply here and now

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: We want to know here and now. We want the release of Mr. Fernandes. . . (Interruptions) . . . I ask the Government: Have you any answer? I am asking you whether you have any answer. All right. You have no answer. Then we all walk out in protest. . . (Interruptions) . . . Down with this Government.

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

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, one can understand their sympathy for Mr. Fernandes and their demand for his release. But the Minister says that he is going to make a statement today. I do not know why they are not allowing him to do it. . . (Interruptions). . . Why are they not allowing this?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Kulkarni, you know very well that they can look after themselves without your assistance. Why are you then coming in now? We want to discuss this today and we want the release of Mr. Fernandes. . . (Interruptions). . . Sir, I want to know whether this will be discussed today.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Chairman. Sir. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is making a statement today.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I want to know whether this matter will be discussed here today. I know Mr. Qureshi's statement will be there. But we will not listen to it unless you assure us that there will be a discussion today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no discussion today.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I know personally what role Mr. Qureshi has played. Mr. Qureshi is accountable to the House and he has committed a crime and his Ministry has committed a crime and the Government of India has committed a crime. I want to know whether they are prepared for a discussion today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has not laid any statement now. He is going to make a statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know it. But, Sir, . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, the point is not merely about a discussion. . .

SHRI KAMALNATH JHA (Bihar): Sir, the Minister is going to make a statement and I do not know why they are not prepared to listen to it .

(Interruptions)



SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We want an assurance that Mr. George Fernandes would be released. The first assurance must be that Mr. Fernandes will be released.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Yes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If that assurance does not come, we are not going to listen to him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you can take your seat now. Please take your seat.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am waiting for a reply from them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is going to make a statement today.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want an assurance that Mr. George Fernandes will be released first.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: I am not sure whether he was arrested without the concurrence of the Central Government.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I do not agree with that. Sir, the Minister has said that he will make a statement towards the end of the day. My submission is that this dastardly and dark act was committed in darkness, at about 4 o'clock this morning and it was done with the knowledge of the Minister and with the knowledge of Mr. Qureshi and Mr. Mishra and also of the Home Minister who is present here. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister also knew about what was being done.

Sir, this is an outrage which has no parallel in the history of trade unionism of the country. . . (Interruptions). . . or even in any other country in the world. After all, the negotiations were going on. But, in the meantime, he has been arrested. So, first of all, the most important point on which the House would like to have an assurance is this: In order to avoid any confrontation and in order to avert the strike Mr. Fernandes must be released.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani, the Minister has said that he would

make a statement towards the end of the day.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY (Assam). When he is going to make a statement on this, why are they not prepared to wait for it? I cannot understand this. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, I am constrained to observe that we cannot be a party to this outrage, this heinous sin of trying to cripple the whole economy of the country. . . (Interruptions). . . Sir, the other day, the Minister had said through an advertisement that the strike would . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani, there is no point in talking now. The Minister is going to make a statement today. I am going to adjourn the House now.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, to register our protest against the action of the Government, against the crime of the Government, I and my party will walk out of the House now.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2-15 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-five minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at seventeen minutes past two of the clock, Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair

#### DEMAND FOR A SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON RAILWAYS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ganesh. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am bringing this to your notice. You left, and we also left, before you adjourned. The Lok Sabha has admitted an adjournment motion on the Railways. I have given a Short Duration