

11. Shri Kanchi Kaiyanasundaram  
12. Shri Bir Chandra Deb Barman J J.  
Shri D.Y. Pawar

14. Shri Dwijendralal Sen Gupta  
15. Shri Krishnarao Narayan Dhulap be  
nominated to serve on the said Joint  
Committee."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE  
STRIKE SITUATION ON RAILWAYS

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : Before I call upon the Railway Minister to make his statement, I would like to clarify the procedure. After the Railway Minister < his statement, Members will be allowed :k clarifications. But, one Member can put only one question and only, one Member from one Party.

(interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): You have not asked him what he is going to say. Is it a matter of charity or concession? Therefore, Sir, it is not for you to say. Let us see what kind of a statement he makes—preposterous or otherwise—and on the basis of that we shall say what we have to say. (Interruptions)

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : This matter has been debated exhaustively in this House on several occasions. Certainly Members may like to seek clarifications from the Railway Minister and if only one Member from each party does it then it will save time.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Delhi): मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस सदन में मैं काफी मनच से रहा हूँ लेकिन आज यह पहला प्रसंग है जब चेयर के निर्देश से यह व्यक्तव्य हो रहा है। यह यहाँ के सदस्यों की इच्छा से नहीं बल्कि चेयर को निर्देश देना पड़ा कि मन्त्री जी आकर बक्तव्य देंगे। यानी उन्होंने इस प्रश्न को इतना महत्वपूर्ण समझा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): That is why I say Mr. Advani that I seek your co-operation to save time.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Certainly we have always co-operated with the Chair. इसमें कोई चिन्ता नहीं होगी। लेकिन इस सदन में आप अपनी तरफ से कोई व्यवस्था दे दें। और ऐसी व्यवस्था

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दे दें जिसके कारण हम सीमित हो जाएं तो यह उचित नहीं होगा।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, we shall co-operate with you. It is ten minutes past four now. We are here. We can stay up to midnight. No difficulty that way.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश): मेरा कहना यह है कि आपने यह कहा कि एक-दो बार पहले भी बक्तव्य दे चुके हैं तो मेरा कहना यह है कि यह समस्या ऐसी है जिसमें प्रति दिन नई नई समस्याएं आती रहती हैं यह जितने भी बक्तव्य देंगे उनमें नए नए प्रश्न खड़े हो जायेंगे।

उपसमाध्यक्ष (श्री विपिनपाल दास): इसीलिए मैं कहना हूँ आप कोशिश करें।

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L.N. MISHRA): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, as the House is aware the General Strike started on the Indian Railways at 6 a.m. on 8th May, 1974. On the first day of the strike it was possible to move 60 per cent of passenger trains and 55 per cent of goods trains.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir...

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): Lies.....lies... .lies.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): Please. Let us hear the point of order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know...

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): Let the Minister first read his statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But let him not start with the percentages. The very opening sentence is...

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): Let me tell you; you will have enough time to have your say.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But he is not Surajit Sen or Pamela Singh. Every evening we hear Surajit Sen and Pamela Singh about these percentages. Let him tell something.. .

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I do not understand what is the intention of the members of the Opposition. It was at their request and at their insistence that the Railway Minister was called upon to make a statement. It seems from the very beginning that they are not interested in the statement of the Railway Minister....

{Interruptions}

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: How can our say that? This is uncharitable.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Niren Ghosh, please sit down when I am speaking. I do not get up every time when you speak. So, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, if they want to know, let them hear the statement. I do not know whether it is right or wrong. This is for them to make comments after hearing the statement of the Railway Minister. If they do not want to hear the Railway Minister, it means they were not interested in the statement but they were trying to create some impression outside where...

{Interruptions}

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It is absolutely wrong. I regret that I have to cross you. I have got to differ with you. I have rarely crossed you...

{Interruptions}

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, we understand better. At least nobody in the Opposition can strike me down by speaking loudly. I am only saying, let them hear the statement of the Railway Minister and whatever observations they have to make, they can make them. And if they are not interested, that means they are interested only in creating the impression that they are the sole defenders of the Railwaymen's cause than...

{Interruptions}

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: This is diversion, I am sorry to say. I rarely crossed you. But this is diversion, I regret.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I regret, such type of attitude will hamper the cause of Railwaymen and also the interests of the country. This is my appeal to them. I request them that they should not create an impression that they want to gain politically, rather than serve the cause of the Railwaymen.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is a kind of preposterous statement. All right go ahead and tell lies.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I am not telling lies. As the House is aware, the general strike started on the Railways at 6 a.m. on 8th May, 1974. On the first day of the strike, it was possible to move 60% of the passenger trains and 55% of the goods trains, of the number of trains that were moved on 1st May, 1974. Passenger trains, however, suffered long delays. In the Bombay area, commuter services were dislocated by large scale absenteeism of motor-men. These motormen though individually willing to resume work, are complaining of serious intimidation and that their family members have been told that if they go for work, they are likely to be dealt with severely even long after the strike is over and their dead bodies will be laid at the door of their houses. It is on this account that they are keeping away from work. Even on 8th May—the first day of the strike, the Railways were able to move all the essential commodities, particularly coal to steel plants and power houses. The one serious set-back which occurred on 8th May, 1974 was mob violence at Moghalsarai. On the morning of 8th, staff attendance was normal in Moghalsarai yard. At about 10 a.m., a mob of about 1000 people, mostly outsiders came into the yard and started assault-ing and pulling out the workers. Some of the workers after being assaulted were garlanded with shoes and were paraded in the streets. This struck terror into the railway employees and they all deserted their work places. Subsequently security arrangements were tightened up in Moghalsarai and a good percentage of staff have come back to duty. I am glad that the staff have shown heroic sense of duty and the work at Moghalsarai is proceeding very satisfactorily.

Today—the 7th day of the strike, the picture on all the Railways is very satisfactory. Southern and South Central Railways are more or less normal and traffic is being inter-changed freely at Gudur. Movement of foodgrains and petroleum products from Madras is quite normal. Central and Western Rlys., except for the Bombay area proper, are more or less normal and all the traffic is being handled. Even in Bombay area, the goods traffic has picked up further and all the essential goods traffic is being moved in and out of Bombay. In Northern Railway also, the position has

improved and long distance trains are running closer to schedule time than at the beginning of the strike. As conditions are returning to normal, more long distance trains have been re-introduced from New Delhi and Old Delhi. The Flying Mail, Srinagar Express and Lucknow Express are being run. The flow of goods traffic into Delhi area has also picked up substantially. Gradually more local passenger trains are being restored.

The conditions in Eastern and South Eastern Railways are rapidly returning to normalcy. The coal loading from these two Railways has been kept up at a high level and the stock of coal in steel plants and power houses today has been and is very good. On 13th, i.e., the 6th day of the strike, the percentage of loading for all India Railways was 70% and the percentage of goods trains run was also 70% of the pre-strike period. Passenger trains were kept at a level of more than 70% of the pre-strike period on the 13th.

Large number of staff are returning to duty and on the 13th, 13,000 men came back to duty, including 1000 on the Northeast Frontier Railway. The condition on the Northeast Frontier Railway is also getting normalised and movement of essential articles to North Bengal and Assam has been stepped up. Today the 14th, so far about 7,000 people have returned to duty on all the Railways. More and more people are also travelling in long distance trains, showing the public response to the improvement in train services.

As I have mentioned earlier, there have been very serious cases of intimidation of Railway workers. In addition, there have been many attempts at sabotage and it is only because of the vigil and precautionary measures taken by the State Police, Border Security Force and the Central Reserve Police that it has been possible to avert serious accidents. In Bombay area, there have been 3 cases of sabotage and one passenger train narrowly missed an accident. The damage to the track inflicted by the saboteurs was detected in time and the derailment of the passenger train was averted. There have been a number of cases of removal of fish plates, placing boulders and rails on the line on the Arkonam-Jalarpet Section in Southern Railway. In Jhansi area, as also on the South Eastern Railway, there have been a number of cases of sabotage. The telecommunication system and the overhead traction system between

Howrah-Kharagpur was also damaged by saboteurs. It was to safeguard against sabotage, destruction of railway property and security for the train running that Border Security Force, State Police and Central Reserve Police have been deployed at various points. They are also looking after the safety of those workers who are at their work-spots.

In this connection, I am very pained to report to the House the extent to which intimidation and violence is taking place. In Delhi area, family members of those who are attending to their work have been threatened, their cooked food have been thrown on into the streets and acid bulbs have been thrown on some of the family members. It is really a sad turn of events that the innocent family members should be so cruelly treated by the striking employees or by their agents. In Bombay area, one Head of a Department and another two officers while on their inspection, were pushed down and an attempt made to assault them. In Madras area, officers were kicked, abused and made to lead a procession of strikers. In Bombay, yesterday one Assistant Station Master on duty was stabbed and he narrowly escaped death. Near Jhansi, a gangman was shot to death. These horrifying cases of intimidation and violence are taking place in spite of the security measures taken by the Government and that shows what would have happened if these measures had not been taken sufficiently early.

In conclusion, I have to report that the situation on all the Railways is rapidly returning to normalcy. I appeal to all the Members of the House to use their influence and see that the strike is ended.

I also appeal through this House to those railwaymen who are still staying away to come back to work without loss of time and help us to render the kind of service the community expects of us. They are our brethren and between us, there can be no place for distrust or recriminations. After all we all have to work together, shoulder to shoulder, to keep the Nation's wheels moving.

Before I conclude, I would like to quote from what our great Prime Minister said in the Lok Sabha on 10th May, 1974 while speaking on the subject. I quote:

"This strike has affected most the poor and the weaker sections of our society. As you know, lakhs and lakhs of people will

[Shri L. N. Mishra] not get food, will not get coal and all the other necessities due to strike. Far from helping them, it will equally touch the future of the railwaymen and their children.

I know the difficulties of the railwaymen, but the burden is far greater on those who are today not organised, those whose voice cannot be heard so loudly such as the unemployed youth of the country." SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I take Mr. Chandra Shekhar's advice, a kept-boy, and I shall ask some questions. I do not wish to give rise to great heat and passion. First of all, we expected a statement to be made by the Railway Minister, not by the Inspector-General of Railway Protection Force. What we have now made by him is a statement which could have been easily made by a demobbed Inspector-General of Police of the Border Security Force and RPF and the Territorial Army headed by Shri Umashankar Dikshit. Why we have a Railway Minister we do not know. We have a big industrial dispute on hand. This is not disputed. We could like to know what has happened to that dispute. The hon. Minister has been saying that they have sympathy for the railwaymen and he is incharge of the Ministry. Have you noticed a word of sympathy for the 2 million railway-men in the country? They are all saboteurs, they are all murderers... HON. MEMBERS: No, no. (Interruptions) SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Listen to Mr. Chandra Shekhar's advice. Now, let me have my say. As I said yesterday, we are not All India Radio studio nor are you the chorus-boys of Mr. Gujral. Why do you take this status on you? You are my esteemed friends and hon. Members of Parliament, young and old. That is why I say do not oecome chorus-boys. You are far better than Mr. Gujral, most of you. Now, listen to me. I expected an approach of that type. Nothing came. What about the repression? How many people have been arrested? How can the Minister say "They are my brothers" ? May I ask him whether he has found out from the concerned authorities that more than 20,000 of his brothers and sisters have been arrested in the course of the last few days ? Is he a little disturbed by the fact that so many people under his Ministry have been put behind prison bars? Many people have been sent to prison.

There is no indication. I should like to know how many of your brethren are behind prison bars? Only this morning you have arrested Shrimati Parvati Krishnan, Mr. B.D. Joshi and many others. Having arrested many leaders all over the country, I should like to know...

(Interruptions)

I know why you are shouting. I tell you, the Prime Minister does not choose Deputy Ministers by looking at you, by seeing how many of you shouted at somebody else. She has got her own report. Do not do it. You are ruining your chance. I know, the be-all-and-end-all of some of you is to become the Deputy Minister or the State Minister or to get promotion. May God bless you, if you believe in God. But for the time being, you may remain quiet. If you like, we can certify some of you.

Secondly, is it not a fact that the railway colonies are being raided in the style of the hoodlums, that the railway workers' families are being thrown out, their wives are harassed, their children are being assaulted and utensils and other household things are being thrown out? Is it not a fact that water supply is being cut and electricity is being cut? Is it not a fact that they are being intimidated at gun point to go to work and that even when they resist, their families are pounced upon ? MPs are liars. They have gone and seen, and they have issued statements. We have told the Prime Minister, we have told the President. We did not go to the President's-House to tell him lies. Do you think that we are liars and that the Railway Board people are the only ones who can tell the truth ? Nothing of the kind. It is the other way round.

Is it not a fact that you stopped the payment of wages to the railwaymen in a most arbitrary, vindictive manner so that the vendetta could be carried to the homes of the railwaymen, so that their children starve, the mothers shed tears and the family suiters in agony ? That is what is happening. Up to the day of the strike, they are entitled to the entire wages and you are stopping them. I think kind of thing we have never heard of in any civilized society or in a parliamentary democracy. You are doing that.

Then there are many other questions to be asked. Such a horrid repression we cannot think of, not even have we heard; we have not come across any instance where such

a terrible repression has been let loose on those who are running the lifeline of the nation, the two million railwaymen.

I should like to know from the Government what has happened to the negotiation. We had expected a statement on that subject. We had gone to the President. He heard, I must say, with great sympathy when we placed our claim before him. I reveal one thing about Mr. Mishra—at the Prime Minister's meeting on Friday, Mr. Mishra came with his chart to show how many trains were running. Not even the Prime Minister or Mr. Umashankar Dikshit asked him to read it out. He put it into his pocket and went out. It is not a question of percentage. We all know what it is. Tell us what happened to the negotiation? The Coordination Committee passed a resolution saying that they were prepared to enter into negotiations without preconditions. You gave the three-point formula; simultaneously—you said—release, negotiation, withdrawal. That proposal was not acceptable to us nor could we do it. We said, we did not put them in prison. In the

i of the negotiation, you arrested George Fernandes and others in order to interrupt the negotiation, unilaterally. Can you imagine such a thing happening in the United Kingdom when the coal strike was going on or when there was a railway strike there? Can you imagine events such as the DIR or the MISA being used against the trade union leaders and they are being whisked away to prison? You do not have such things there. Hon. Members know that strikes do take place in France, Italy, the United Kingdom and other countries but you never see such things happening in those countries. What happened to the negotiation?

Sir, after that, it must be said to the credit of the railway leaders. We had been in touch with them, some of them, who are out. They said, "All right, we drop our condition of release and let them drop their condition of withdrawal. Let the negotiation start without any precondition. We were discussing the terms when you broke off the negotiation."

Why do you not accept that suggestion? You say you are not standing on prestige. I say you are doing something much worse. You are not only standing on prestige you are getting into a spirit of vendetta. The Railway

Board has got the upper hand now. The Railway Board wanted this confrontation and it is my regret that many of the Members opposite have been brought into dittoing a position which has been created by the Nawabs of the Railway Board who have bungled on every single issue.

DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI (West Bengal): That is because of your approach. You made us go in favour of the Railway Board against whom we have been speaking here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have to wind up now.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : You made us go in their favour.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Such is the position today. I again urge upon the Government to accept the resolution or the latest stand of the Co-ordination Committee. Start negotiations. Do not come up with cock and bull stories about the rail strike. According to him the Indian Railways are running even better than two months ago. This the idea of what he said. Everything is running normally.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) Who are the people to negotiate with?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him. Let him wind up. Please wind up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Mishra himself said that he was for negotiation. At the Prime Minister's meeting he said that he did not stand on prestige and would be ready to negotiate after this resolution of the Co-ordination Committee. Why is he shying away from negotiations? I do not understand this kind of thing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is quite clear that they are out to suppress this strike by the use of armed forces, police, C.R.P. and so on. Repressive laws have been let loose. This is not the way to tackle industrial dispute...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will call Mr. Thengari. Mr. Thengari.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, this is entirely wrong. Today is the last day of the Parliament session. I am voicing the feelings of many people in the country. Today millions of people also are feeling that way. There should be a negotiated settlement. I urge upon you to go in for negotiated settlement. . . (Interruptions) I think if you take constructive step, if you take the reasonable-course of giving up your bellicosity and intransigence, road to successful negotiation will open up. And that is what. I want I am now ashamed at the manner in which the Government is behaving. It is unheard of in parliamentary democracy. With a foreign dignitary like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in our country you are demonstrating to them your...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Are you finishing or not ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : ... You are showing your vindictive attitude before a foreign dignitary...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why are you angry with me ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have to be angry because you are not winding up in spite of repeated requests...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All right I will sit down but I can get up again.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN .... Mr. Thengari has been standing for the last five minutes. I have called him. Mr. Thengari.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am very sorry, Mr. Thengari. I hope you are not tired. I am sure you shall stand long and speak long enough.

SHRI D. THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, times out of number hon'ble Members raised the point about negotiated settlement. He has not reiterated his stand in today's statement. I do not know whether this is deliberate or inadvertent.

Then, Sir, some Leaders of the Opposition sought permission for interview with Mr. George Fernandes in the Jail. The permission was refused. I should like to know why the permission was refused, whether it is in-keeping with the profession of the Government that they are very eager for negotiated settlement.

Secondly, we are told that in her talk with the Opposition leaders the Prime Minister had indicated that even on financial demands the Government would not take a rigid stand though there are obviously some limitations on how far they can go.

But yesterday evening, Mr. L.N. Mishra is reported to have told press reporters "Nothing doing, no negotiations unless the strike notices are withdrawn". This is going back on whatever has been said by the Prime Minister that day. So we should like to know where the Government stands so far as a negotiated settlement is concerned. Our friend, Mr Kali Mukherjee has asked "Negotiation with whom?" I may only suggest, negotiations with those with whom the Government was conducting negotiations already on the evening of April 30. It is not a very difficult thing. Then, the Government says that they want a negotiated settlement. The Action Committee has said that they are also eager for a negotiated settlement, and they find the three-point formula unworkable. There are obviously limitations. We have already mentioned them. In brief, I may say that withdrawal of strike notices cannot be made a pre-condition for the simple reason that in every civilized country negotiations are being conducted while strike notices are there. Even during the pendency of a strike, even when a strike is going on, negotiations are conducted and even this Government has conducted negotiations when strikes were going on. Secondly, even in our Industrial disputes Act, conciliation proceedings are initiated after strike notices are served. So this cannot be a pre-condition. Again the Government is very well aware that strike notices were served by 110 unions in a full-fledged conference of the National Co-ordination Committee. \i the notices are to be withdrawn, a full-fledged conference of the representatives of all the 110 unions should again meet because they alone are authorised to withdraw the strike notices. The Action Committee is not in a position to meet in a full-fledged manner because some of them are in prison. All these facts indicate, Sir, that the three-point formula is unworkable. The Action Committee has said that they are very eager for a negotiated settlement and the Government is quite aware of the difficulties in the way. Therefore, the Government itself should come forward with a proposal that is workable, and the Action Committee will very

willingly think over it and give an appropriate response.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether their stand about a negotiated settlement has changed because, Sir, we are suspecting their stand on account of the various reports we have received and whatever we have seen. Even in Railway colonies like Kishanganj, Shakurbasti and Tughlakabad, there are repressive measures by police. Womenfolk are being beaten up and manhandled. Even their wages are being withheld. A number of repressive measures are being adopted. There is victimisation, dismissal and suspension. Thousands are arrested, [n view of all these facts, we doubt the bona fides—I am using the word "bona fides" with all sense of responsibility—of the Railway Minister when he declared in the first place that he was very eager for a negotiated settlement. This is a grave problem. The entire national economy is involved. I would urge that at this stage, the Government should not stand on any false notion of prestige because whatever be the consequences, whatever be the result of this strike, it is not that the Government will lose or the railway workers will lose. Primarily it is the nation that stands to lose to-day. Therefore, I urge that the Government should not stand on any false notion of prestige. They should give a workable proposal that can be acceptable to the Action Committee.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. T.V. Anandan.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: On the question of negotiations, we find that there are differences. I again ask him: With whom should the negotiations be started?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The Co-ordination Committee.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: I would like to know actually with whom the negotiations should be started? If that is spelt out, the problem can be sized up..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister will take care of that.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: There are differences even among themselves.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The Co-ordination Committee is the body which can negotiate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Niren Ghosh, he is asking a question of Mr. Thengari and you are getting up. Yes, Mr. Anandan.

SHRI T.V. ANANDAN (Tamil Nadu): In the functioning of the railways for the last century and a quarter the catastrophe which the country faces today has never been witnessed. Even during the freedom struggle there was not such a stoppage of trains as we have seen today. All these things happen, in my view, only because of too much infiltration of political parties in the railway trade union movement. It is now proved beyond doubt that railwaymen are patriots and still continue to be patriots. It is only due to, as per the statement of the Minister, the serious intimidation loyal railwaymen are afraid. There were many strikes. I have also led many strikes. After the strike, when the strikers resume work, loyal workers have been put to untold miseries. That is one factor today why the railwaymen keep away. In a democracy we have so many Opposition parties. With what purpose? For serving the country. Whichever party may be in power, the interest of all representatives of political parties is to see the progress of our nation. The railway, a life-giving sector of the country, is disturbed. You know many of our comrades and friends have said how the economy of the country has been ruined. Yet, I am of opinion that, as per the statement of the Minister—I am also keeping in touch, although I am in Delhi, with the railways all over—we find, although they say 2 millions, it is not 2 millions that went out of the work, it is a minority. I know out of 14000 railwaymen in one Division in the Southern Railway, it is only 3800 or so who are on strike mainly due to intimidation. The Southern Railway has picked up. So also the South-Central Railway. But for the political parties and politicians this strike would not have materialised. I know what is happening in Delhi. Now people have come forward. The Congress Party have also risen to the occasion and they go and tell the people that it is harmful to the nation if the railwaymen go on strike. Therefore, I want the Government not to stand on prestige, to see who is the victor and who the vanquished. After all, railwaymen and the Government represent our nation. Therefore, treat every one of them. He asked, "With whom should we negotiate?" Yes, Mr. Dange, an experienced trade unionist, has shown the way to do it in

[Shri T. V. Anandan] today's newspapers. With such of those people on the Negotiating Committee who are outside, with them negotiations can take place. After concluding the negotiations, they can go and meet those members of the Negotiating Committee who are in jail, convey to them what transpired in the negotiations. Is it impossible? I ask Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. If he takes a decision and tell the people, those who are in prison, will they discard his views? No, certainly not. But you are not interested in finding a solution. Political parties in this country are not interested in finding a solution. As I told you, it is not the railwaymen. I have got facts with me. In Tamil Nadu the Tamil Nadu Government has come to the rescue of the Centre. They have arrested more than 1200 outsiders, rowdy elements, employed by the politicians. They have been arrested and the Southern Railway has picked up. That clearly shows how things are shaping in the name of railwaymen. Because the strike is not withdrawn shall not be the cause for you to delay negotiations...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I must say Kamaraj has been well-assimilated.

SHRI T.V. ANANDAN: Why do you bring in that great man here? Were you not at the doors of Mr. Kamaraj when he was in power? Have I forgotten it?

So, Sir...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I said that Shri Kamaraj has been very well assimilated.

SHRI T.V. ANANDAN: You are the person who initiated that Shri Kamaraj should go to USSR. I know you. Let us not bring in the Communist Party of India here. They have their own views.

Now I am coming to the point. Unnecessarily I know a gangman was shot dead. It has been the demand of the railwaymen that there should be two men on patrol duty. But the Railway Board did not listen. One man who was honest, sincere and loyal was shot while on the track. Had there been two men one would have given assistance to the other. In this critical hour if a group of patrol men, are sent out on the track at least till the strike issue is settled, where was the harm? But you did not do it. I know railwaymen coming back to their duty. One thing I want to know from the hon. Railway Minister. Why are you delaying in implementing the agreement that we have agreed? You said

that on the 1st of May orders should be passed on to the Indian Railways to implement the agreement. Have you issued those orders in regard to decasualisation, in regard to eight hour duty as recommended by the Miabhoy Committee and accepted by you? Have you opened fair price shops in the railway colonies? These are the ways how you can instill faith among the railwaymen. Let them feel that here is a Government which is helping them. But that you have not done. You are thus giving them room to doubt your sincerity.

The Railway Minister has given some more assurances. One is that the Railwaymen who are on the verge of retirement will get an extension. Do not disappoint them. Those loyal workers who are about to retire expect you to implement this assurance. Similarly, give jobs to their sons and daughters in the Railways. Give them increment which you have announced in this House. After that, let us see how things shape in this country.

Many people ask me. Why are you supporting the Government? This is the time that you should create an impression that you are against the Prime Minister. I am interested in the country and therefore I will not listen to these political leaders who ask me these questions. I have been more in the trade union movement than in the political field. My heart bleeds when railwaymen are put to these difficulties. Therefore, negotiations can be started as has been pointed out by Shri Dange in this morning's papers. You can discuss with those who are outside and then find a solution, if you are sincere. Let there be no ill feeling. After all railwaymen are our countrymen. They have done their duty very well. Of course there are two issues. One is bonus which is before the Bonus Review Committee. The other is about job evaluation. You must be very careful about job-evaluation. You must give a guarantee that there should be no retrenchment. I want to know from the hon. Railway Minister whether he will maintain all those assurances given in this House to the Railwaymen. Mind you, not to one or two. Millions have stood by the Railways despite advice to the contrary by the political leaders. You must also implement the Miabhoy Committee's recommendations.

श्री रवी राय : उपसभापति महोदय, श्री जैमि  
मानन्दन साहब बोल रहे थे उस से मुझे ऐसा लगा कि कामराज



भी उन को बोलने के लिए पढ़ा कर भेजे हैं और ऐसा बोलने से कामराज जी का कांग्रेस में घाना सुगम हो जायेगा। उमाशंकर महोदय, मेरा कहना यह है कि पहले तो मैं रेलवे कर्मचारियों का अभिनन्दन करता हूँ, वह बधाई के पात्र हैं कि एल०एन० मिश्र और भारत सरकार की पुलिस, टैरीटोरियल प्रार्मी और बी०एस०एफ० के अत्याचार के बावजूद पिछले 6-7 दिनों में उनकी हड़ताल चल रही है और यह सफल हुई है, यह प्रतिश्रुति सफल हुई है। मैं उपसभापति महोदय कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब यह सत्य है कि भारत सरकार इंटरनेशनल लेबर संगठन को सदस्य है और प्राल इंडिया रेलवे मेंम फेडरेशन एक रिकग्नाइज्ड संस्था है, मूनिषन है तो क्या इंटरनेशनल लेबर ऑर्गेनाइजेशन के जो नियम हैं उनके चलते जार्ज फरनान्डीस जो ए०आई०आर०एफ० के सदस्य हैं उनके साथ जो बातें चल रही थी उसको वह क्यों नहीं चला रही है। क्या ऐसा करके वह उसके नियम नहीं तोड़ रही है?

दूसरी बात मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसानगंज रेलवे कालोनी जो है, जहाँ सैकड़ों की तादाद में रेलवे कर्मचारी बसते हैं, मैं श्री कालो बाबू से कहूंगा कि वे भी मुन लें, और मैं आप को एक पैरा सुनाना चाहता हूँ कि जो विभा घोष गोस्वामी, एम०पी०, चंपा लिये, प्रमिला बंडवते और मिसेज लीला फरनान्डीस, जो वहाँ संग्राम चर्कर हैं, उन्होंने अपना नयान निकाला है, उस बारे में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उसे आपने देखा है और क्या वहाँ को एक रेलवे पियन जो बीबी है उसका मोनेस्टेशन हुआ है। क्या यह बात सही नहीं है। एक तरफ तो हमारे एल०एन० मिश्र भी कहते हैं कि जो हमारे लायल चर्कर हैं उनको हम देखभाल करते हैं, लेकिन जो रेलवे का साधारण कर्मचारी है उसको फ्लो पुलिस द्वारा मोनेस्ट की जाये क्या यह बात सही नहीं है?

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जार्ज फरनान्डीस क्या आप से भूत हड़ताल पर है यह बात सही नहीं है। यह जो एम०पी० लोग उनसे मिलने जाना चाहते थे और उनको अनुमति मिलने वाली थी उस अनुमति को मूह मन्त्रालय से रोके जाने का कारण क्या है? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब आप उनसे बकीलों को नहीं मिलने देते हैं, एम०पी० को नहीं मिलने देते हैं, तो क्या ऐसा होने पर गहरी शिकायत ही समाप्त नहीं हो रही है। वह ए०आई०आर०एफ० के प्रेसीडेंट हैं और वह एक मान्यता प्राप्त मूनिषन है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनके साथ ऐसा बर्ताव क्यों किया जाता है?

दूसरा सवाल है निर्गोत्रियेटेड सेटिलमेंट के बारे में। अभी तक सरकार का जो रुख रहा है उसमें बड़ा फर्क है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो ए०आई०आर०एफ० और कोप्रॉडिनेशन कमेटी है, जिसके साथ लगातार उन्होंने प्रतीक बातें किये हैं उसको एक दम से समाप्त कर देना किस नियम में आता है। तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ

कि निर्गोत्रियेटेड सेटिलमेंट के लिए आप संदुन को धारणासन दें कि आप जार्ज फरनान्डीस को रिहाई करें, उनको जेल से मुक्त करें और गरी की सारी कोप्रॉडिनेशन कमेटी से बात कर के रेलवे हड़ताल को समाप्त करायेंगे।

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to ask the Minister and the Government whether it is a fact that in Iran our Prime Minister secretly met Dr. Kissinger...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything about the Railways or not?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Let me put the question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: BUT are going to Dr. Kissinger.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Let me put the question and then you will realise it. I want to know whether an understanding has been reached that the working class of India must be dealt with in the toughest possible manner.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA: Very wrong.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY (West Bengal) : Absolutely correct.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that the internationally famous Newsweek has said that the repression or the crack down that has been unleashed is one which any dictatorship of any country in the world would; have been proud of? It has termed us a dictatorship. Yesterday at 10 p.m. I got a ring 5 P.M. from the railway enquiry that the CRP and BSF have cordoned off the colony; we cannot enter the city. Is it not a fact that they have organised 'Youth Congress' or 'Nehru Brigade'? They are arresting; they are molesting. . . (Interruptions). . . at the point of bayonet; they are shouting, 'Go to duty or go to Tehar jail. . . (Interruptions). The West Bengal fascist terror is being re-en. on all-India scale. Is it a fact or not? They are issuing statements to hush up this massive repression and dictatorship. Is it a fact or not? I would like to know ..... (Interruptions).

Now, Sir, I will come to the main question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have not yet come to the main question?. (Interruptions).

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: They said that they are prepared to negotiate. Does that position stand? If it does not, let them say so clearly. If it stands, that they are prepared to negotiate, let them put it clearly. They say, "in the interests of the...". He has quoted the words of the Prime Minister. I would like to ask the Government, is it not a fact that during the last twenty-five years they have continued to impoverish the common man? Now they speak in their name... {Interruptions}

Is it a fact that you have mentioned about the negotiations? Is it the position of the Government? Is it not a fact that they have retrograded from that position? If so, let them say so clearly. Is it a fact that he has issued a statement, a declaration to the railway men, to surrender or, in the alternative, to fight to the bitter end? If that is so, the railway men will fight to the bitter end, supported by the working class and the people of India.. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Tomorrow there will be a general strike in the entire country..

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: We fear that after the Parliament adjourns today, there will be a heavy crack-down and also fascist terror unleashed..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Wind up.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is it a fact that the Railway Board has plans like sabotage in order to put the blame on the striking railway men? They are like the agents provocateur.

I want to have answers to these questions.

SHRI R.K. MISRA: (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman I was in Iran with the Press party which accompanied the Prime Minister during her recent visit, (interruptions). Permit me, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, to describe the suggestion made by Mr. Niren Ghosh about the Prime Minister's meeting with US Secretary of State as a preposterous fabrication of imagination.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will she meet in the knowledge of Shri Misra or anybody else?

SHRI R.K. MISRA: I can only say that the geographical proximity should perhaps be considered to be a more reliable evidence than the rumours Shri Niren Ghosh might have heard here from interested quarters

who are only interested in maligning the image of the country and the Prime Minister.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would be ready to change if the Prime Minister settles the railway dispute.

SHRI R.K. MISRA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister have again and again said that they do not want a confrontation with the working class as such and especially with the railway employees. The fact that the three-point formula emerged during the discussions is an indication of the earnestness of the Government about having a negotiated settlement. I would like to know from some Members of the Opposition why they took 24 hours to communicate this three-point formula to the Action Committee.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I will answer it.

SHRI R.K. MISRA: Let me finish. I would also like to know whether it is a fact that there was a suggestion in the Action Committee that no member of the Action Committee should meet any member of the Government after the strike had started and it was after the intervention of some of the members of the Action Committee that it was formally decided that no member of the Action Committee would meet either any Member of the Railway Board or the Railway Minister. Is it an indication that really there is earnestness about a negotiated settlement? On the day when the leaders of the Opposition met the Prime Minister, all of them came out and said that the climate had improved. None of them has criticised the fact that Mr. George Fernandes issued a statement from jail saying that the strike will continue till the demand for bonus and the demand for parity are accepted. Is it an indication of the earnestness on his part to have a negotiated settlement?

Mr. Madhu Limaye a close friend of Mr. George Fernandes describes those members -- Mr. Anandan said that those members of the Action Committee who are out should negotiate—as a truncated body and questions the right of these people to negotiate. All those who have been in the trade union movement know that there are numerous instances when there has been a serious situation and those who were outside had negotiated and tried to find out a basis for settlement. Mr.

Thengari asked here the other day when the three-point formula was mentioned by them as to what would be the Government's reaction if the suggestion for withdrawal of strike was modified into suspension of strike. Now, this proposal has not come from the Action Committee or from any body else. Did they try to persuade the Action Committee? I remember that the Railway Minister did not give any reaction to this suggestion. I would presume that this meant that the Government had not rejected it outright. I had expected that they would try to persuade the Action Committee with whatever influence they had on them to see that some alternative proposal came forward so that the gap between the Government's position and the position of Action Committee could be somewhat narrowed down, unfortunately the leaders of the Opposition here have no authority to negotiate. They have made it very clear and now it has been established that they have no influence over the Action Committee or the Co-ordination Committee. The debate here is only an exercise in trying to convince the people who really want a negotiated settlement. (Time Bell rings) A sort of competition is going on. Finally I would say that this House is going to adjourn today. It does not mean that our concern to have a negotiated settlement of this very unfortunate situation which has developed in a vital sector of our economy, should diminish. But let us be very honest to our selves. Now Mr. Dange himself has said that Mr. George Fernandes committed a mistake when he replaced the demand for parity by a 75 per cent increase a fiat increase in emoluments. Of course this is a fantastic demand which Mr. Fernandes had made. All this leads one to a suspicion whether there are not really elements within the coordination Committee, within the Action Committee, who are not interested in a negotiated settlement

{Interruptions}

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to say that in the three-point formula...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Niren Ghosh please take your seat.

SHRI R.K. MISRA: Before I conclude.. (Interruptions). I will just mention two points for the consideration of the Railway Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI R.K. MISRA: If there is any particular instance of misbehaviour or assault on women or on members of the families of the railwaymen, I have absolutely no doubt that the Railway Minister will definitely see to it that if these allegations are correct these should be severely dealt with. And under no circumstances, should the members of the families of the railway employees be allowed to be manhandled. Secondly, Sir, the question of payment of wages has been mentioned. According to the Railway Minister himself, majority of the work res are not on strike. And Shri Anandan has also mentioned it. My impression was, that when that notification was issued, it only exempted the Railways from being prosecuted for delay in the payment of wages. Because of the strike, it may be that in some places they may not be able to make the payment because of the dislocation of work.

Sir, I hope the Railway Minister will look into all these things.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: (Himachal Pradesh): I want to have one clarification ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only Mr. Kumbhare can ask..

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमन्, जब श्री विपिन पाल दास चेयर में थे तो उन्होंने ..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have heard what Mr. Bipinpal Das was saying. I am calling Mr. Kumbhare and he will be the last speaker.

श्री राजनारायण: हम उनको भी बोलने नहीं देते।

श्री उपसभापति : घाप बैठ जाइए।

I shall not permit this kind of disobedience. (Interruptions) If you persist on this, better go out.

श्री राजनारायण: आज रेलों में हड़ताल हो रही है, कोई मजदूर की बात नहीं है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajnarain this is not a fish market. Please take your seat. Otherwise I will have to name you. Please take your seat. Now, Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Sir, I would..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have called Mr. Kumbhare. I am not going to

[ Mr. Deputy Chairman ]

v anybody ----- (Interruptions) Mr. Monoranjan Roy I shall not allow you to speak. Please take your seat. Whatever Mr. Monoranjan Roy, says will be off the record.

(Shri Monoranjan Roy continued speaking)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roy, are you going to obey the Chair or not? Whatever he says will be off the record.

(Shri Monoranjan Roy continued speaking)

श्री राजनारायण: श्रीमान्, आपको बर्तन से बोलना चाहिए। (Interruptions)

श्री उपसभारक्षी: आप चिल्लाते जायें और हम बोलते से बंद रहें।

श्री राजनारायण: आप चेयर पर बैठे हैं, आप ज्यादा न बोलना करें। आप यह दिखाना चाहते हैं...

(Interruptions) (Continued speaking)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Rajnarain. Nothing will go on record. There has to be some order in this House. You cannot persist in speaking like this, defying the Chair. I shall not allow it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Cm a point of order, Sir. I do not want to interrupt you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNARAIN: I will not allow the Minister to say anything.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajnarain, I know your antics too well. I will not permit your antics in this House.

Yes, Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, for the last few minutes you have been saying that nothing will go on record. Sir, I do not think even in these exigencies it is fair. This is not a very right thing to say. Surely, Sir, you know very well that Parliamentary rules are very strict as to what should go on record.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I have heard that a number of times. I have also quoted the rule. (Interruptions)

Rule 259 is very clear.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, it is not, Sir. May I have that rule?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes Mr. Kumbhare has been called.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If the rule is there. I will obey. I will not question. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know everything Mr. Rajnarain.

MR. RAJNARAIN: I know you too. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not try to bully the House. Please sit down. Otherwise, I will have to name you. Do not talk like that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Today is the last day and I do not want to enter into any controversy. I am surprised you are not even being advised.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Rule 259 says. . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I was saying it will go off the record.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: ..... "The Chairman shall preserve order and shall have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing his decisions." Now, Sir..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will enforce order in the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Let me finish. My saying will not hamper the proceedings but when we feel there is something you can consider.... (Interruptions).... The rules are quite clear. Here you are called upon to maintain order. You have to maintain order not outside the rules but within the scope of the rules. The rule says—it is exhaustive—when you have to expunge a thing you have to act under that particular rule but not under the general powers that you have. As you know, if you have to put me out of the House you have not to take action under this rule. You will invoke the relevant rule under which a Member can be named and thrown out of the House. If you think something should not go on record, you can order expunction only.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is a different matter Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : If for this expediency's sake you use such things it is rather difficult for us to stomach such things

and we find you are not even advised. I would request you to call a meeting of the General Purposes Committee where all leaders are members there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We shall discuss it then.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have called Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I know you won't change. Let the Chairman call a meeting of the General Purposes Committee. Rules are there, precedents are there and May's Parliamentary Practice which you still mention is there, many many other things are there. We shall come to a conclusion as to under what circumstances and under which rule things could be expunged. But do not act arbitrarily.

**श्री रवी राय :** मेरी बात सुन ली जाये। एक सेकिंड में खेना चाहता हूँ (Interruptions) मेरा यह कहना है कि हर एक पार्टी से एक एक सदस्य ले लीजिये। हम लोगों का निवेदन है कि क्योंकि यह एक ग्रहम सवाल है और आज राज्य सभा का अंतिम दिन है तो हम ने दरुखास्त की थी कि जो पूछना चाहेंगे उनको समय दिया जायेगा, उनको अनुमति दी जायेगी। इस पर सहमति हुई कि जो चाहेंगे वह सवाल पूछ सकते हैं। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस पर विचार कीजिए और जो सवाल पूछना चाहते हैं उनको अनुमति दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But he made no commitment on that. He did not make any commitment. (Interruptions)... Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : What is your ruling on the earlier point of order ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am calling Mr. Kumbhare now. That is over Mr. Advani. We are not discussing it.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Is the General Purposes Committee meeting for this purpose ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : They will consider it. I am not going to announce it the House. It is for the Chairman to call if he wants.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You know very well that rules of the Question Hour were violated for the whole session and when we pointed it out in the General Purposes Committee it was corrected. The rules were violated for the whole session as far as admission of

questions was concerned. Do not use 144 here.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You are very unfair to your own colleagues. Mr. Kumbhare has been wanting to say something.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am fair then.

**श्री लाल झाडवाणी :** उपसभापति जी, इसमें आपत्ति क्या है ? अगर लोग चाहते हैं कि इस बारे में कौन्सिलिंग होना चाहिए तो उसको आप क्यों एवायड कर रहे हैं ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is for the Chairman. As far as I am concerned, the book is there and I go by the rules. Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are not going by the rules.

**श्री लाल झाडवाणी :** दस मिनट से इस पर चर्चा हो रही है। इस पर पहले भी चर्चा हो चुकी है। मेरा निवेदन है कि इसका इंटरप्रिटेशन भागे के लिए नहीं हो सकता।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am calling Mr. Kumbhare. Mr. Advani please take your seat now.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE (Maharashtra) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, about the negotiated settlement, both the sides, that is, the Railway Minister and the other party, say that they want a negotiated settlement....

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I may tell you that if you do not call the General Purposes Committee to have this matter thrashed out, let all the Opposition Members withdraw from the Committee. This is the position now ----

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Where is the question of withdrawal now ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I know it very well.. .

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : We shall all withdraw.. .

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I may tell the Members on the other side that it applies to them also. You will suffer. I am not speaking for my right to speak. I am only interpreting the rules.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Sir, what is the difficulty...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is very unfair, Mr. Advani. Mr. Kumbhare has been called and he is wanting to speak. But he is unable to do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am only interpreting the rules. If I am right, I stand vindicated ; if I am wrong, I will stand corrected.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, if anything goes against the rules, you should write to the Chairman.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Surely, Sir, I know what steps are to be taken.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Then, what is the use of saying that you will withdraw from this Committee or that in the House

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SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, you are not correct.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Of course, I will say that. We are all Members here and we have to say what we want to say. You have given your interpretation as if we do not know anything about the rules... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :  
Mr.

Bhupesh Gupta, since I am in the Chair, I shall interpret it as I see it and if you have any difficulty, you can write to the Chairman and get it interpreted differently.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have not asked the Chair to do anything outside the rules...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have also not done anything outside the rules.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then how did you say that ? You are bound by the rules.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, I am bound by the rules and I think I have done it according to the rules only.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then think you have done it hopelessly wrongly...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think I am perfectly correct in maintaining order in this House.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, you are not correct on this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then, Sir, in order to maintain the proceedings of the House, a Member has to be silent and all the speeches are to be expunged ? Can you say that ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have not said that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are not a lawyer. If you were a lawyer, you would have understood what the procedure is.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, do not put words into my mouth. I have not used the word "expunge". I have always said that if a Member persists in speaking, nothing will go on record. That is all.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Under what rule ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is to maintain order in the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Under what rule ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Under what rule ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is to maintain order.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : We will not accept it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We cannot accept it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You may or may not accept. Yes, Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I hope these are not expunged...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Nothing is expunged. Yes Mr. Kumbhare.

SHRI N.H. KUMBHARE: Sir, much has been said by both the sides about the negotiated settlement. The Railway Minister says that he wants a settlement and here the representatives from the workers' side say that they also want a negotiated settlement. But, Sir, as a person who knows something about

the trade union movement, I fail to understand the demand for a negotiated settlement by both the sides because the Railway Minister has, in very categorical terms, said that it will not be possible for the Railway Administration to concede two major demands. As I understand it, the demand of the workers besides the other demands which the Railway Minister has said have been conceded, is relates to two major items. One demand is in respect of payment of bonus and the other demand is for the revision of the wage structure or, as it is said, increasing the pay by 75 per cent or granting parity with the public sector undertakings' employees. Now, in the case of these two demands, the Railway Administration has come out with a statement that it is not prepared to concede these two demands. Assuming that, as demanded by the workers' representatives, their leaders sit across the table to talk about these demands, the Railway Administration will say that so far as these demands are concerned, they have made their position clear that it is not possible to consider the demand. Then, Sir, is it possible to arrive at any settlement at all? I pose this question to the Railway Administration. It is not possible unless some other possible solutions are suggested. Now, the other day, Sir, we were told that despite the fact that the Railway employees are departmental employees and, therefore, they are government servants, they are also governed by the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. Now, it is really time when we must have a constructive, and detached approach. Everyone is speaking from his own angle. Now, it is time when we really should have a very constructive, detached approach. There is a solution also. In all disputes when it is not possible to reach an agreement, a machinery is there. My friend, Mr. Thengari, has said that we have not gone in for conciliation. I may tell him that there was a mistake on the part of the labour representatives. They have given notice of strike and after negotiations they have taken recourse to conciliation. Conciliation has nil been adhered to. There you have committed a mistake. On the contrary, the Railways should have also agreed to refer the matter to conciliation. {Tim? Bell). Conciliation

Id have offered another opportunit; sort out differences and parties would come to some amicable settlement, it has not been done. Therefore, the only course open for an amicable settlement is reference of the dispute to an adjudication of the tri-

bunal. That is the only way out. I would like to know from the Railway Minister, Mr. Mishra, whether he is agreeable to have this course. Mr. George Fernandes says that it is not difficult for the Railways to give enhanced rates of wages. With efficiency and other reforms in administration, they can save so much as to enable the workers to get enhanced wages. Now, this has got to be examined thoroughly. Making a statement is a different thing. To substantiate it requires cogent proof. Therefore why not evolve a solution? Let there be a national tribunal comprising Judges of the Supreme Court. Let them look into the whole question and their decision will be binding. An appeal has been made by the Railways that the workers should go back to work. Simply because of the appeal is made, workers will not go back to work. If they go back to work they will not get anything, more than what the Railways have conceded so far and in respect of their two demands their strike will be a total failure.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNARAIN: On a point of order. . .

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: I would like to say. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please lake your seat. He lias risen on a point of order.

श्री राजनारयण: श्रीमन् हमारा व्यवस्था का सवाल यह है कि यात्रा प्रातः सभापति जी के चैम्बर में ही गया हूँ। सभापति जी के चैम्बर में जाकर हमने उनसे निवेदन किया कि ये रेलवे मजदूरों के सम्बन्ध में जो सरकार को धीर से ज्यादाता हो रही है, जो कल रात को 11 बजे वहाँ पर डंडा चला धीर 11 बजे हमने श्री दीक्षित जी, गृह मन्त्री, धीर श्री मिश्रा जो छुटका घर मन्त्री है, उन दोनों से हमने बातचीत से धीर दीक्षित जी ने...

श्री काली मुखर्जी: कोई रास्ता है कि नहीं यह बात पत्नी।

श्री राजनारयण: सूनिए, काली जी ट्रेड यूनियनमिस्ट है, उनकी बात को मैं मानता हूँ। हमने यही सब राष्ट्रपति से कहा था कि अब तीन प्वाइन्ट नहीं रह गए हैं, केवल एक प्वाइन्ट रह गया है क्योंकि भगदर कहते हैं, मजदूरों के नेता कहते हैं जेल से रिजोर्ज का सवाल खटप है और थाप हड़ताल थापरा से ली (Interruptions) अब केवल एक प्वाइन्ट रह गया कि सरकार नेगोसिएशन करें जो लोग जेल के भीतर

[श्री राजनारायण]

है उनसे जेल में जाकर और जो जेल से बाहर है उनसे बातचीत करो तो...

श्री उपसभापति : प्वाइन्ट ऑफ़ ऑर्डर क्या है ?

श्री राजनारायण : प्वाइन्ट ऑफ़ ऑर्डर हमारा यह है थोमन्, कि जब हम चैम्बर में जाते हैं और चैम्बर में चेयरमैन साहब से कुछ निवेदन करते हैं तो चेयरमैन साहब कहते हैं प्रच्छा नाम को मन्त्री जी प्रायेंगे किसी समय तो उनसे मवाल पूछ लीजिए और जब यहां मवाल पूछते हैं तो उस समय जो यहां चेयर पर खड़े वे कहेंगे...

श्री उपसभापति : अब आप हमारी बात भी सुन लीजिए।

श्री राजनारायण : ... तो ऐसी स्थिति में चेयर और डिस्पार्डर क्रिएट कर देता है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I was there when he came and I heard what he had said to the Chairman. And now when the question; were to be asked I specifically called Mr. Rabi Ray and asked whether Mr. Rajnarain wanted to speak. He said, no. Therefore it is not my mistake. Mr. Rajnarain, he is your own colleague. He does not want to ask any clarification.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You just explained that he did not want to put any question Mr. Monoranjan Roy wanted to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But I cannot allow two people from the same group. Then there will be absolute disorder. If everybody wants to ask clarifications, then there will be disorder. Then it will be two from the Jana Sangh also. I have to maintain some kind of order. It is for me to decide whom to call.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You will decide, of course. I do not say that you will not decide. My submission is this that it is not yet time and we can put some more questions. It is not past time and you can allow some.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just because you want to have your say, you do not allow him to ask a clarification and then after you have had your say, you say, let him also ask a clarification. It will apply to Mr. Rajnarain also. He will not ask questions; he will ask Mr. Rabi Ray to ask and then he will say. I want to ask. I will have to decide who is to ask for clarification.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Sir, women are molested and the Railway Minister is responsible; you have put the police, the BSF and the CRP. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not for me to judge who is telling a lie. Everybody has had his say. Mr. Niren Ghosh has had his say.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not for you to tell who is telling; a lie, unfortunately, your rote is to hear the lies.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Sir, my point of order is that the Railway Minister during his speech has not mentioned a word about the announcement that has come out that the railway workers must go back to their quarters with their families. As a matter of fact, thousands of families have been turned out of their quarters. Some of them have gone somewhere, they were forced to go out of their houses. He has not mentioned about it. My second point of order is this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How many points of order?

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: That point of order is over.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are only trying to say what you wanted to, under the garb of a point of order.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: It is a serious matter. We want to put one or two questions. Unheard of repression has come..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Yes, Mr. Mishra.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : But he has not mentioned ...

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: When they speak they always look to the Press. So, Sir, you change the place. Let them come to this side and we go to that side so that there is less of noise.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: You come here. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roy, You have had your say.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: You have had right to molest the families....

SHRI L.N. MISHRA: I have no right...

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: The CRP is doing that.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA: Firstly, I will start with Shri Bhupesh Gupta. Shri Bhupesh Gupta is one of those hon. Members for whom



I have got the highest respect and regard, and anything coming from him, I take seriously. I express sympathy for those railwaymen. He said about the colonies being raided and electricity and water being disconnected.

Sir, I have no information with me.

**श्री राजनारायण:** झूठ।

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I have no information with me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I appreciate. At least you have said "No information". Mr. Gujral would have said "I have information that nothing has happened."

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I have no information. But let me say that when I go back to my office I will look into it and try to find out what are the facts.

Secondly, he wanted to know as to what happened to negotiations. As Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and hon'ble Members know that on a number of occasions I have said that we are all for a negotiated settlement. Even the Prime Minister said like that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You take down notes. But how you take down I do not know. You have not replied as to how many people have been arrested according to your information.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: That s there. I have forgotten the serial order.

He spoke about negotiated settlement. Today I again reiterate that we are for a negotiated settlement.

So far as this three-point formula is concerned, I was not the authorised person to talk about the formula because it emerged out of a meeting with the Opposition leaders and the Government side. But I would say that no advantage of that formula was taken and the golden opportunity was lost.

(Interruptions by Shri Niren Ghosh)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You listen him. You have had your say.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The three-point formula was given by Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta said that the three-point formula...

SHRI RAJNARAIN: On a point of order. Please sit down. Learn manners. Learn

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the procedure, learn how to behave in the House. You should sit down.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA: AH right.

**श्री राजनारायण:** रेलवे मजदूरों की ओर से कह दिया गया है कि हमारी रिहा करने की मांग खत्म, हड़ताल को वापस करने की मांग सरकार न करे और इसी समय नेगोशिएट करे। एक ही प्वाइन्ट है।

**श्री एल० एन० मिश्र:** राजनारायण जी, आप सुनते नहीं हैं।

**श्री शोभ प्रकाश त्यागी:** आप नेगोशिएन्स करने जा रहे हैं या नहीं?

**श्री एल०एन० मिश्र:** भूपेश गुप्त ने कहा कि थ्री-प्वाइन्ट फार्मुला बर्कस का एक्सेप्टेबल नहीं है। *Interruptions* अब थ्री-प्वाइन्ट फार्मुले को एक-प्वाइन्ट फार्मुला बना दिया है कि खाली नेगोशिएन्स होने चाहिए। इतना मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैं नमस्ती के पक्ष में हूँ, नेगोशिएटेड सेटलमेंट के लिए हम तैयार हैं, लेकिन उसके लिए हवा तैयार करनी होगी। मैं माननीय सदस्य से कहना चाहता हूँ कि 15 तारीख को जो सारे हिन्दुस्तान में करने वाले ...(*Interruptions*) अगर 15 तारीख को...

(Interruptions)

**श्री राजनारायण:** ललित नारायण मिश्र, एक बात का जवाब दीजिये। क्या आप मजदूरों से बात करोगे या नहीं करोगे? हड़ताल तो कल होकर रहेगी।

**श्री लाल आडवाणी:** एक बात का स्पष्टीकरण होना चाहिए। इस बात पर अब एकमत है कि बातचीत होनी चाहिए। इस पर सरकार को क्या आपत्ति है?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Mr. Advani asked to release all those arrested...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: They have waived their demand for release. You waive your demand for withdrawal. The common point is resumption of negotiations. Now it has come to one point. You answer whether you agree to that or not. This is the clear question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: One simple thing. Whatever the discussion was. Let us not go back to it. The only thing now is: Start negotiation. This is one simple thing. They are ready, it seems.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: You have had your say. Let me have my say. (Interruptions) They have disowned the three-point formula.

[Shri L. N. Mishra.] They now say that there should be a one-point formula—negotiated settlement. I say, yes, a negotiated settlement. But how are the conditions to be created? Normalcy in the Railways has to be restored. Unless normalcy is restored there cannot be any negotiations. (Interruptions) Normalcy has to be restored. (Interruptions) We have no spirit of vendetta. We have affection and love for the railway workers. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: We walk out.  
(Interruptions)

[At this stage some hon. Members left the House],

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: If you say that they must withdraw the strike and then only negotiations can start, then what is the compromise? What is the way out? That is why the one-point formula was put forward... (Interruptions)

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I am not yielding.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It seems you are not prepared to listen to us. (Interruptions) Do it, do whatever you want to do. (Interruptions). We walk out.

(Interruptions)

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

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Sir, I will finish in three minutes because I will have to keep the record straight. Mr- Bhupesh Gupta said we are working in a spirit of vendetta. It is not correct. We have all regard and affection for our railway workers. They are our workers; they are my workers. We want to give them help as much as possible. But they have to see reason. A situation has been created in which no negotiation is possible unless normalcy is restored. It is this we have been asking for and the moment normalcy is restored there can be negotiations. Now, what is there to negotiate? There are eight demands, out of which six were acceded to and accepted. Sir. I have also worked in the trade union movement. Any organisation will jump at such a settlement where out of eight demands, six are accepted. Only two were left out and they, too, were very difficult. Perhaps even George Fernandes would not have dreamt that he would be able to secure any settlement on those two demands. Therefore, when we say there

should be negotiations, there is hardly anything to negotiate. But if they want to negotiate, we are prepared to negotiate, but they will have to restore normalcy.

Mr. Thengari mentioned about refusal of permission to George Fernandes. I do not know about it. There are some rules in regard to detenus about interviews, writing of letters and so on. I am told that things have changed much in regard to detenus. In our time, things were bad. I am told he can write letters and meet visitors. I see no reason why any interview should be refused to him if it is within the rules. Then he mentioned that I said "Nothing will be done till the strike is withdrawn". I did say, unless the strike is withdrawn and normalcy is restored, how can we think of having some kind of an agreement? But so far as the six demands are concerned, if the AIRF and the NFIR come forward to sign an agreement, we will be only too glad to sign the agreement. Mr. Shafi Qureshi will sign on our behalf. We are prepared to sign an agreement on those six demands.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN (Tamil Nadu): May I know from you whether you have referred the demand of the railway workers on bonus to the Bonus Review Committee? Will you kindly state the terms of reference of the Bonus Review Committee?

I would like to know whether the demand of the railway workers for bonus is referred to the Bonus Review Committee and also the terms of reference of the Bonus Review Committee.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I cannot say about all the terms of reference. We have not referred this to the Bonus Review Committee.

Then he said "Don't stand on false notion of prestige". We are not standing...

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: The other day you were telling this House that this Bonus Review Committee will give its decision and then the question of bonus to the railway workers may be considered. But the statement which you are making now is a diversion of the issue and you do not want to give bonus to the railway workers. You say now that you cannot give all the terms of reference of the Bonus Review Committee and you are not referring this issue to the Bonus Review Committee. How do you reconcile your two statements?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: We have said only this, it is premature to think, about bonus unless and until the report of the Bonus Review Committee is received because they have their own right to go into any matter. It is just possible that they might go into the question of bonus to the departmental workers. Therefore, I thought it would be prejudging the issue, I am not going to discuss this point here in the House now...

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: On a point of order. Although the Government of India did not refer the question of bonus to the railway workers to the Bonus Review Committee, was it not a fact that under the liberal terms of reference the Chairman of the Bonus Review Committee had the right to cover the question of railway workers and he had issued a questionnaire to the two important railway federations and the National Federation appeared before the Bonus Review Committee and gave evidence whereas the AIRF did not give any evidence? The fact that the National Federation gave evidence before the Bonus Review Committee and that the Bonus Review Committee gave coverage to the railway workers in its report proves that the railway workers were covered under the terms of the Bonus Review Committee.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: My point is that it should be included in the terms of reference.

SHRI L.N. MISHRA: I have said that we have not referred it to the Bonus Review Committee. That is the position. I have said that I do not want to go into the merits or demerits of it now. This has been discussed for three or four days and no agreement was possible. And that position still stands.. .

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir,..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him. You please allow him to complete his answer...

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: I do not want to interrupt him. I only want to know from him because even on that day the honourable Minister said that the question of grant of bonus to the railway employees can be considered when the Bonus Review Committee report comes. Now, he says in the terms of reference it is not there. Now even after the dispute has been raised, this has not been referred to the Bonus Review Committee.

How then do you say that you are very serious on the question of grant of bonus to the railway employees?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I have said that I am not going to discuss this point. This we have already discussed.

Then, Mr. Anandan made a good point. And he was correct when he said there has been too much of infiltration of politicians in the trade union movement. That is the most unfortunate part of it in this country.

As you know, in the world over it is the trade unions who dominate the political decisions of the country. In this country unfortunately, because of historical reasons, India was fighting for freedom, here political parties influence the decisions of the trade unions. Naturally their decisions become political decisions, not trade union decisions. And to that extent Mr. Anandan was very much correct, and it is on this point that I seek co-operation of all the workers and trade union leaders so that we should have one union in one industry and we can get rid of political influence over the trade union movement. Then, Sir, he wanted to know about the percentage of persons who went on strike. Roughly 30 per cent of the people are absent. As I said in my statement, 70 per cent are working. Even out of this 30 per cent, the real persons on strike will not be more than 10 per cent. Twenty per cent people are not coming because of intimidation and other fears. Therefore, 90 per cent of the workers have stood by us, they have stood by the nation, they have stood by the people, and I have every respect and regard for my workers. And it will be a bad day if we have to think that our railway workers. . . (Interruptions)... go against the national interests. Mr. Anandan said, "You are not interested \_\_\_ " We are very much interested in finding a solution. We will have to find a solution. He wanted to know about gang-men's reorganisation. That is a point which we shall look into, that there should be a group of two persons to go on duty. This point will be looked into.

He wanted to know why we are delaying to implement the agreed proposals. Sir, we are keen and very serious about it. We wanted AIRF people also to sign the agreement, apart from the NFIR people. After both of the sign the agreement, the Miabhoj award and other things will be implemented without delay.

[Shri L. N. Mishra.]

About our assurances given to the loyal workers, we stand by them\* and we have issued instructions to officers to take decisions on the spot without referring to us about extension to retired people, about re-employment of retired people, about giving increments to young men who are 0.1 duty and about rapid promotions to be given to appreciable work. All powers in this regard have been given to the local officers and those instructions are being followed.

Shri Rabi Ray said that we are violating ILO conventions. I did not know that I had something to do with ILO for a number of years and I know the ILO conventions. We are not violating any of those conventions. He should rest assured that because some telegrams were sent to London and Prague by George Fernandes, we are not violating them. It is not a fact.

Then about Shri Niren Ghosh. You know he is a mysterious man and he comes out with some mysterious suggestions. When Mr. Kissinger goes to China he is all right. Now he says that our Prime Minister had a secret meeting with Mr. Kissinger. It is fantastic. He should not have spoken like that. I contradict that with all power at my command. This is not a fact. It is a figment of imagination on the part of Shri Niren Ghosh.

He spoke about Nehru Brigade molesting railway workers' families. This is also false. It is baseless to say that any of the Congress workers has been doing this. Of course some of the volunteers and public men have gone to the Railway colonies to restore confidence among the frightened people who were intimidated by others. Public workers and volunteers have gone. They have gone to pacify them.

Shri R. K. Mishra put our case properly. I am thankful to him for clarifying the position. He wanted a settlement. - I have already said that we are for a negotiated settlement. But for that proper atmosphere and conditions will have to be created. Otherwise, we are for it. After all we have to work together. All the Indian Railways are just one family. The members of the family have to sit together and work together. How can we close the doors for negotiations? Only thing is we should sit together and come to a negotiated settlement.

Shri Kumbhare spoke about conciliation. As a matter of fact, when we finished our deliberations, we were to sign the agreement as to how we ended on the 30th evening when the whole thing was over and the atmosphere was so cordial. We were thinking that on the 1st May or on the 2nd the agreement will be signed. We parted in a friendly way and we never thought that there had been any hitch about the negotiated settlement. We thought it had been achieved. But something else happened. These people went on strike. As our Prime Minister has appealed, I also appeal our railwaymen to come back to work and if there is any genuine grievance they will be surely looked into. We have all affection and admiration for our workers.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE  
ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN  
REGARD TO IMPEC**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Sir, I regret to say that Shri Niren Ghosh, the hon. Member of this august House has chosen to voice views and opinions without first verifying the facts. I categorically deny the tendentious suggestions and malicious allegations which have no basis. On the completion of his five-year term, Shri A. M. Tariq relinquished office as Chairman, Indian Motion Pictures Export Corporation on 28th March, 1974. Before I deal with the points made by Shri Niren Ghosh, I might give the hon. House background in brief about IMPEC.

6 P.M.

Set up on 19th September, 1963, as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, with a share capital of Rs. 25 lakhs—77.6 per cent share capital held by the STC and the balance 22.4 per cent by the private film producers, the company's principal objectives were—1 quote, Sir, "to purchase and market Indian films and to support, protect, maintain, increase and promote the marketing and exhibiting abroad of Indian films by executing agreements with foreign organisations and by launching promotional efforts with a view to boosting exports, etc".

During the last ten years of its existence, five of them under the chairmanship of Shri Tariq, the IMPEC was able to handle on an