

REFERENCE TO STRIKE BY THE HARYANA ELECTRICITY BOARD EMPLOYEES

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): Sir, I wanted to draw the attention of the House to a very serious situation that has emerged in Haryana as a result of the strike of the Haryana Electricity Board employees and their arrests. The Haryana Electricity Board Union submitted a charter of demands in May 1972. Instead of solving the legitimate demands of the Haryana Electricity Board employees, the management of the Electricity Board, with the support of the State Government, under the blessings of Shri Bansi Lal, has unleashed a reign of terror. Six thousand employees of the Electricity Board are in jail. They have been arrested and are being harassed. Their women and children are being harassed. I request the hon'ble Minister of labour and the Central Government to intervene in the situation and ensure that the harassment and intimidation to the families are stopped forthwith and the genuine demands of the employees are met.

REFERENCE TO RELEASE OF PRISONERS FROM WEST BENGAL JAILS AS A RESULT OF STRIKING DOWN OF SECTION 17(A) OF THE MAIN- TENANCE OF THE INTERNAL SEC- URITY ACT

SHRI NUTEN GHOSH (West Bengal): I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India, particularly, the Minister of Home Affairs; that after the Supreme Court struck down section 17(a) of the Maintenance of the Internal Security Act, some 2,000 more prisoners should have been released. But they have not been released. Only one hundred odd have been released. Strange things are happening making a mockery of the law. The Government of West Bengal is breaking law non-challantly and openly. Some security prisoners are brought out of the jail gate and are again arrested and taken back inside the jail on some new charges. Cases

I are instituted against them. One does not know how these prisoners could have [committed any crime inside the jail. That is why the Government is breaking the law openly and non-challantly giving a go-by to the Supreme Court judgment. It should be brought to book and all the prisoners should immediately be released.

REFERENCE TO STRIKE BY DELHI TEXTILE WORKERS

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to make a mention of a very serious situation in Delhi. For the last twenty days 27,000 textile workers are on strike. But it is surprising, Mr. Vice-Chairman, that for the last 20 days, excepting for two or three days, there is not even a mention of the strike in the newspapers of Delhi. And here in the Capital city, the Government of India feels quite helpless. I do not think that the Law Ministry is so helpless in regard to the two industrialists, though very famous, Bharat Ram and Birla. They seem to be more powerful than the Law Ministry and the Government of India. Mr. Vice-Chairman, the strike has been complete. The strike has been totally non-violent and peaceful. There has been no incident so far. It has all the potentiality to escalate.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS (Uttar Pradesh): That is why there is no mention in the papers.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: To-day all the DCM chemical workers have gone on strike. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, may I very humbly bring to your notice, and through you to the notice of the Government, that if a solution is not found out within three or four days, other toiling masses and working classes are going to join this strike, and there is every apprehension that this strike may result in a chaotic situation in the Capital city. If some unscrupulous politicians join hands with the industrialists. If the Government