

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

DELAY IN THE WORK OF EXECUTION OF FARAKKA PROJECT

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : (Maharashtra) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the delay in the work of execution of the Farakka Project and the circumstances relating thereto.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : Sir, on account of labour troubles and the adoption of go-slow tactics by the Departmental staff as well as Contractor's employees there has been a slowing down of the progress of the construction of the Farakka Barrage Project during this working season. There have been demonstrations, gheraos, and threat to supervisory staff. Although the go-slow agitation has been withdrawn formally by the workers with effect from 26th December, 1969, the conditions are still not conducive to the efficient execution of works.

The workers of one of the Contractors on the Feeder Canal of the Project went on the Feeder effect from 16th February 1970. The strike was called off on the 28th February 1970, after the Contractor conceded their demands. The entire work of this Contractor during this strike period remained at standstill.

The demands made by the Departmental employees have been examined by the Project authorities and the Government in a sympathetic spirit, and a number of them have been accepted. However, the demand that all Departmental employees working on the Project should be retained in Government service after the Project is completed is one on which Government cannot make a commitment, though possible avenues of employment are being explored.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I am really surprised because we are a country fighting the claims made by Pakistan in regard to extra water from Farakka and at the same time we are also facing difficulties in the construction work at Farakka. I am really surprised: what type of people are those who are obstructing the work which is

in the interest of the nation and which is in the interests of all them. This Project is in the interests of the Bengali people themselves. So I do not understand this type of callous attitude of those people, this should be denounced at all levels.

May I ask the Minister what are the specific items where there is non-cooperation from the workers and whether it is a fact that the work in the Farakka Project is being held up because of the question of Bengalis versus non-Bengalis and the Bengali people are not allowing non-Bengali people to work? Secondly may I know whether these gheraos are particularly against the Central Government officers because it is stated in so many places that the Central Government officers are particularly gheraoed and threatened in West Bengal and whether it is a fact? Thirdly I want to highlight a statement made by the West Bengal Irrigation Minister Mr. Biswanath Mukherjee :

"Heavy construction machinery has been immobilised as a result of the missing of costly vital parts worth between Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 15,000 in foreign exchange."

He has also said :

"An organised attempt is being made to sabotage the Farakka Project and the Supervisor and the officials could not issue any instruction or directives lest they should be handled."

Sir, in such pitiable conditions, in such a position where the machinery is stolen, where the construction work is not being allowed to progress, where officers are gheraoed, I want to know what steps the Central Government proposes to take to bring this to the notice of the West Bengal Government if it is there now because I do not know whether the Government is there now . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Will you please ask your question?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I am asking the question itself. I want to know whether the Government will bring it to their notice. I want that the Minister himself should bring it to the notice of his counterpart in West Bengal and to the Chief Minister that it is the nation that is losing and it is not only West Bengal that is losing.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : I agree with the hon. Member that this work is of great national importance and should not have been interfered with. In spite of the fact that we are spending a very heavy amount of money and realising the importance of the Calcutta Port it is most regrettable that some countrymen of ours, misguided workers, are unfortunately going slow with its work. Sir, the hon. Member has asked three questions. One is whether the trouble is due to Bengalis versus non-Bengalis. As far as we know that is not the problem. The problem is that all the workers including Class IV want to be continue in employment even after the work is completed and they want an assurance that everyone of them will be continued in employment on the same scales of pay. That is an assurance which we are not prepared to give. We shall try as much as we can in order to see that these people are absorbed. Some 35 per cent of them we are going to absorb and for the rest we have to find place elsewhere. Apart from that we cannot give any assurance. It is on that account the whole trouble has arisen there. About gheraos of Central Government officers, this work is being done by the Central Government and therefore naturally all the officers there are Government of India's officers either on deputation from the Centre or elsewhere but all the officers are being troubled and demoralised by these unfortunate gheraos and other violent actions. As far as the last question of the hon. Member is concerned, it is true that the machinery has been immobilised. It is a very unfortunate thing that has happened and realising the importance of this project and the slow progress of this work I personally met the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of the West Bengal Government and brought it to their notice and I also had discussions with them. I have also written a number of letters to them but so far the situation still remains very unfortunate and undisciplined.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, my second question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your second question should be very brief.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I fully appreciate the steps taken by the Minister. He has rightly done it . . .

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated) : But no improvement.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : . . . but without any improvement. I would appeal to the Chief Minister of West Bengal if he is still there or Mr. Jyoti Basu who will be there now that in the interests of the nation they should allow this Farakka Barrage work to go ahead. We are fighting on two fronts; let us fight with Pakistan but not amongst ourselves.

DR. K. L. RAO : I quite agree with the hon. Member and I hope his appeal would have effect on the Government of West Bengal.

SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL (Punjab) : The hon. Minister, in his reply to the first questions, has concluded that the delay in the completion of the project is almost entirely due to labour trouble. Will the hon. Minister enlighten this House as to how much delay has occurred in the completion of the project due to the failure of the special construction equipment, which has been imported from rupee payment countries? Especially one such large piece of equipment, which was employed in the excavation of the main canal, has become the subject-matter of a court case or arbitration case as regards payment for this equipment.

DR. K. L. RAO : I am fully aware of what the hon. Member has been referring to. It is true that one of the contractors has imported a very costly earth-moving equipment, but it has not worked. In spite of that the contractor has made good by providing some other machinery. The work, as I said, has not been delayed at all by any of these reasons. On the other hand, with a bit of luck and planned arrangement, we are doing the work ahead of schedule.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the West Bengal Minister of Irrigation has offered the fullest possible co-operation in solving the dispute which has arisen in the matter of the Farakka barrage construction which is a very vital project to us? Secondly, may I know whether it is not a fact that owing to the defective setting of the right abutment of the barrage, the Ganga, of late, has started changing its course and that has resulted in the deposit of sand and

[Shri Chitta Basu]

silt on the river bed itself, thereby threatening the very existence of the very important inland port of Dhulian? And this shift in the location of the right abutment has been made on the insistence of the Union Minister, Dr. Rao. The advice of the technical committee, which was for taking up the matter . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I want to be clarified on that point. I have got other points also. This is regarding the arbitrary shifting of the location of the abutment on the right side of the barrage. May I know whether it is not a fact that, while it was earlier contemplated to complete the work on the 26-mile feeder canal departmentally, it has been given to a contractor and that in the matter of the contractor there has been certain allegation with regard to the colourable manner in which the particular contract was given to the present incumbent and as a result, the work on the 26-mile feeder canal has suffered and is likely to defeat the very purpose for which the Farakka project has been taken on hand, which is mainly to increase the navigability of the Hooghly and to improve the water in the Calcutta port . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : What is the question?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Do not disturb me. My question is whether it is not a fact that it was earlier contemplated by the Government itself to take up the work on the construction of the 26-mile feeder canal departmentally. Instead of taking up the work departmentally, it has been given to a contractor and the choice of the contractor has been colourable. The particular contractor has been given contract contrary to the advice of the Chief Engineer of the project, Mr. Mukherjee, and that has caused delay in the construction of the barrage. That will also cause harm to the project itself and defeat the very basic purpose for which the Farakka barrage was contemplated. Thirdly, may I know also from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the Chief Engineer of the project Mr. Mukherjee, has resigned lately because of alleged difference of opinion with the hon. Union Minister of Irrigation and Power? Forthly, may I know from the hon. Minister . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have put about three questions.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is very important and there are many questions. How can I discharge my responsibility? I am not asking anything irrelevant or which does not refer to the Farakka project. What is the good of bringing forward a motion of this nature? If you want to hush up the matter, it is all right for you, but every Member should be given the right of seeking clarifications. I have not put anything which is not aimed at seeking clarification.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right, put the last question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : My fourth question is whether the Government, at a certain stage, gave an assurance to the employees that with the completion of the work the utmost endeavour would be made for their absorption or providing alternative employment to those who are now engaged in such a very big barrage. These are the questions to which the hon. Minister should give adequate clarification.

DR. K. L. RAO : If the hon. Member had asked me to go to him or if he had come to me, I could have explained all this in detail. In fact, he has based his questions on a very incorrect statement, probably the most incorrect that I have seen in the newspaper, Hindustan Standard. He has based his entire questions on that. For example, he says the Chief Engineer has resigned. Mr. Mukherjee, on the other hand, is going to a nicer job and so there is no question of his resigning at all. Mr. Mukherjee was the Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Farakka Project. He said he has done a lot of heavy work. Therefore on health and personal grounds, we had to shift him near Calcutta, at his request. He was gheraoed for last two months and he had not been able to go to his headquarters. We had given him special permission to remain in Calcutta. His car could hardly travel three miles an hour. He could not get out of his car or get into the car. There was a lot of trouble. He was in conditions of that kind. He has not resigned. I would request the hon. Member hereafter if he reads anything like this, it is better to come to me and then I will explain the whole thing.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What about the shift in the location?

DR. K. L. RAO : I would like to tell my hon. friend that we have got one of the best technical advisory committees for the project, the best people in the country, the most talented engineers working. They have constituted themselves into a committee, of which the Chief Engineer and General Manager is also a member. Any decision taken there is entirely by these engineers. There is not a single decision taken which has not got the approval of these people. I am very happy that the decisions have been proved to be so good that we have been able to advance the project by two years. The hon. Member referred to the deposit of silt. It is because of the coffer dam. It has nothing to do with the alignment. On the other hand, the shift in the alignment has enable us to do the work much earlier, as I said, two years earlier. It has been done entirely by the technical advisory committee and not by me or by this man or that man. Similarly, regarding contractors, there is a high-level tender committee, of which the Secretary of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power is the Chairman and the Chief Engineer, a member. All these contracts are given entirely by the unanimous decision of these people and the Chief Engineer could not individually do anything like that. I do not want to go into the details, but there were two contractors. The hon. Member is asking : Why should this have been given to the second contractor and not the first? I do not want to name the first contractor, but he had no equipment and he had no experience at all. So, I am very glad he was overlooked. The last time again we called for tenders for some other portion of the canal and the same company had applied. They were given the contract and they miserably failed. To that extent the Farakka project could not be completed. The feeder canal will be completed except for that portion. I do not want to give the name, because I do not want to put the company's name in bad light. That company, according to the hon. Member, must have been given the contract. If that company had been given, we would not have been able to complete it in any particular period of time . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : It should be given, so that

it would be a warning to other departments.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The Minister is not right. My question was that it was originally contemplated to be done departmentally.

DR. K. L. RAO : I am coming to that.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It was never contemplated, in choosing the contractor, that I have got any fascination for this contractor or that contractor. He has no right to misinterpret me.

DR. K. L. RAO : I am in the middle of my reply.

The other point is, I do not know where he got the idea that it should be done by the Department. It is impossible to do it by the Department. For such a big magnitude of work that is impossible to do. Even the little work we have got, we are having a lot of trouble on account of labour unrest. It attempted that by departmental work, it would have been the end of it. We would not have seen the project in this century.

The last question the hon. Member asked is that the Government gave an assurance to the workers that they would be absorbed. We never gave an assurance, we can never give such an assurance. We have got thousands of workers all over. All that we can assure is that we will try to take the permanent staff that are there. We will send away all the deputationists, all the people we have got on deputation. We will try to absorb some of the balance in the staff that is required. For the rest we will try to get them jobs elsewhere. We can never give an assurance. It is impossible, nobody in the world can give an assurance that everybody will be continued after the work is completed. It is in that context I am so sorry that the hon. Member, who is generally very correct, in this instance has been misled.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Can you give the name?

DR. K. L. RAO : Arvind Brothers.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY (Tamil Nadu) : I would like to know from the Government whether, in view

[Shri R. T. Parthasarathy]

of the fact that Pakistan is preparing itself to make this Farakka Barrage an international dispute, the Government of India in any eventuality will be prepared to meet the challenge?

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes, Sir. Pakistan's efforts have been to take this question to outside agencies, and the Government of India is not at all prepared to allow this to go to any third party.

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu) : May I know from the hon. Minister the number of people or employees in each category who are now there, how many of them the Government will be able to absorb, and how many of them in each category the Government will not be able to absorb? In view of the fact that the labour trouble has been the reason for all the trouble, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the various steps that he took or the Government took to resolve the dispute on the spot by going there?

DR. K. L. RAO : Regarding the question of how many are there and how many we can absorb, we appointed a high power technical Committee. They have given a report. There are now 3600 workers on the spot leaving the deputationists who are going to be sent back. Out of the 3600, 1300 will be absorbed—I am giving the round figure, not to the unit; 1300 will be absorbed on the work after the work is completed for the maintenance. Therefore, we are left with 2300. Out of 2300—we have made it categoriwise—300 are overseers, 350 clerical staff, 400 peons, and the rest are all mechanics and helpers etc. It is on account of these people we are having trouble. What we did was, I wrote to every Ministry of the Government of India and the West Bengal Government to take these people—we are not retrenching them today, it is only after two years—to find out any jobs for them. Also we are setting up a special cell in Calcutta in the Labour Exchange for which we have appointed an officer to find employment for these people. That officer is going to join very shortly. We have asked the West Bengal Government to take over the workshop at Farakka. They are also investigating that. We have made every effort, but for the categories we have mentioned normally it is not difficult to absorb these people, but unfortunately they

have taken to this kind of stoppage of work in respect of a most valuable work; that is most regrettable.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : श्रीमन् फरक्का बाध के बारे में जनता में बहुत सी भ्रान्तियाँ हैं और बहुत सी गलतफहमियाँ भी फैल रही हैं। हमारी सरकार फरक्का बाध के बारे में पाकिस्तान से बातचीत भी करनी चली जा रही है और उसके बाद काम भी चल रहा है। तो हम माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि जो आपकी चर्चा चल रही है उसके परिणामस्वरूप फरक्का बाध के शीघ्र निर्माण में किसी प्रकार की कोई बाधा तो नहीं आ रही है? क्या लोगों की इन शंकाओं में कोई तथ्य है कि भागीरथी और पद्मा नदियों के बारे में पाकिस्तान जो अड़गे लगाने की नीति पर चल रहा है उस में या उनके पानी की मात्रा के बारे में गवर्नमेन्ट किसी प्रकार झुक तो नहीं जायगी ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I want to assure the hon. Member and the House that we are not allowing any discussions with Pakistan to interfere with our programme of construction. In fact we would have completed this project by next year—barrage, rail, road, road bridge, everything by the end of this year and feeding water into the Hooghly by next year—in fact we were proudly looking forward to that achievement, but unfortunately due to labour strike we have lost this year. Unless labour troubles are overcome and peace is restored, it will be very difficult to say when this project will be completed. But I can assure the hon. Member—Bhagmati is a different river—that none of these works in connection with the Farakka Barrage is in any way being delayed on account of the discussions with Pakistan.

SHRI G. R. PATIL (Maharashtra) : With a view to avoiding a very serious situation causing great damage to Calcutta Port and for other irrigation purposes this Farakka Barrage was undertaken by the Government, and actually the preliminary work was started in 1960. With a view to seeing that the work is completed earlier a high power

Control Board under the Chairmanship of the present hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power has been established, and the Government of West Bengal are also associated with the Control Board. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this particular matter, that is the gherao, the labour trouble and also the go-slow tactics of the labour, was ever discussed in the Control Board, and if so, what was the reaction of the West Bengal Government to this particular matter? Secondly, originally according to the plan this project was to be completed by the year 1970-71, and in view of all these go-slow tactics, gheraos and the non-co-operation of the West Bengal Government—nobody knows what sort of situation will arise even in the future—may I know whether Government is very keen on completion of this project and, if so, by what time it will be completed?

DR. K. L. RAO : With regard to the question of gheraos and so on, as I submitted already, it was discussed in the Control Board. Apart from the Control Board, I have discussed personally with the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal and had a lot of correspondence with them. Of course they always said that they would help, that they also realise that it is a very important project, that they would give their maximum support to it; but naturally in reality it is not happening. It is of course obvious that the Government of India is most keen that this work should be completed as early as possible, and we are watching the situation now and we will review it at the end of this month or next month and see what steps should be taken to overcome the present unfortunate conditions with a view to seeing the project completed as early as possible.

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त (बिहार) : श्रीमन यह फरक्का बेराज एक ऐसा बेराज बना है जिसमें डीरीगेशन की कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है। यह क्यों डीरीगेशन से रेस्ट्रिक्ट किया गया है? कई जिले हैं जहाँ पानी की बड़ी भारी कमी है, जो सूखे पड़े हैं, जहाँ सिर्फ धान की एक फसल होती है। वहाँ के लिये आप कोई उपाय क्यों नहीं करते? गंगा में बहुत सरप्लस पानी है। उसके बाकी पानी को क्यों पाकिस्तान को जाने देते हैं, उसको इधर क्यों नहीं रोक कर रखते?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is a very interesting question about the absence of irrigation near Farakka Barrage, what we do whenever a barrage is constructed. The lands are irrigated much lower down. For instance, there is the Ganga Barrage at Hardwar. The lands that are irrigated are not at Hardwar but much lower down. Then only the level of the land permits the flow of water. Unfortunately in Farakka Barrage there is no commendable land for a few miles. We come into an area where Pakistan is on the other side. And all those lands are not commandable; whatever lands we have there are not commandable by this barrage. The only way in which you can irrigate them is by lift irrigation, by pumping out the water. It is not possible to do it by flow irrigation.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR (Madhya Pradesh) : Will the hon. Minister tell us whether he suspects any foreign powers' hand behind this labour trouble?

DR. K. L. RAO : I do not accept that there is any foreign power behind it.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन, मैं इस जनवरी की 16, 17 को फरक्का बांध गया था...

श्री उपसभापति : आप न कहें था कि हमारा ब्रीफ क्वेश्चन होगा।

श्री राजनारायण : छोटा सा ही है। केवल इतना ही आप बना दें कि वहाँ जितने दुकानदार हैं, जितनी छोटी छोटी चाय की दुकानें हैं और जितने और हमारे कर्मचारी हैं हम उन से मिले और हम ने पाया कि उन के दिमाग में एक धारणा बनी हुई है कि सरकार सीरियस नहीं है इस बांध को कंक्लीट कराने के लिये। यह धारणा क्यों बनी हुई है, कैसे बनी यह मैं नहीं जानता, मगर मैं आप के द्वारा सरकार को सूचना देना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ के लोगों में यह आम धारणा है कि सरकार के बड़े बड़े अफसर खुद नहीं चाहते कि यह बांध तैयार हो इसलिये हमारे मन में भी यह शका होती है कि क्या कभी पाकिस्तान से मिले हुए अफसर तो नहीं हैं जो इस बांध को कंक्लीट होने में बाधा उत्पन्न करते हैं यही जानकारी मैं चाहता हूँ।

DR. K. L. RAO : I do not agree at all with the Member. Some people might have told him. But you know all these people; they say some such stories against one another. But the Government of India is anxious that this barrage should be completed at the earliest. And the yearly allotment for this project is more than for any other project. Rupees Ninety crores have been spent on this project. I do not agree that there is any kind of idea anywhere about the slowing down of this project and I do not think—I would like to repeat—that there is any party behind this, except the labour unrest.

SHRI RAJNARAIN : Why is there the labour unrest?

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the fact that certain very important parts of machinery amounting to crores of rupees have been stolen? It is reported that these parts are difficult to be replaced and that without those parts this machinery cannot be worked. Now, if it is so, if those parts have been stolen, then what steps have the Government taken to trace the persons who are responsible for stealing those parts and, if the Government have not taken any steps so far, why not?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is true that ten of the fuel pumps of a very costly machinery have been stolen, and these fuel pumps are not made in this country; they have got to come from outside the country, and therefore all this machinery has been lying idle. We are trying to get those pumps. Actually, one of these pumps was buried in the earth. Of course, we cannot say who has been responsible but it is there, that is true. That is, for the last six months all these very important items of the machinery are being tampered with.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Is it because of the lying idle of these machines that the slowing down of the work is due to?

DR. K. L. RAO : Not due to that.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : The machinery has been stolen but the work will continue—is that your case?

DR. K. L. RAO : What I mean to say is this—the equipment that has been stolen is from the barges, tugs and some earth equipment. Only because of that it is not delayed; this is the least portion of the delay. Out of 100 per cent, it may be two or three per cent as contributed by this. The main contributor is the labour unrest and the demoralising effect of the strike. That is the meaning. About the steps, naturally the General Manager has reported to the Inspector-General of Police and he has taken it up with the West Bengal Government, and the various authorities there and they are all at it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : My question arises out of the answer of the Minister. It seems surprising that even though 5 per cent has been contributed by the pilferage of the pumps imported from foreign countries, there has not been any attempt made to find out where those pumps have gone. That should have been done, and if this particular job was entrusted to the Government of West Bengal, then the entire blame goes to the West Bengal Government. They have not been able to find out. Let me find out from the hon. Minister—the Minister here must be in a position to let us know as to who was responsible for the stealing of the pumps and where they are, because they are so important and 5 per cent at least of the delay is contributed because of that factor. This is my first question.

Secondly, has the Minister tried to find out from the Central Bureau of Investigation, from the Central Intelligence, as to whether the strike has anything to do with the political affiliations of certain parties in West Bengal with some foreign countries.

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, I have already submitted that the General Manager has reported to the Inspector-General of Police and the West Bengal Government and the various other authorities, the District Magistrates and so on, about the matter and they are all trying to find out. They have not been able to trace the culprits. Otherwise, I would have reported to the House about it.

Regarding the political affiliation, I would not like to say . . .

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : His another question was this whether you have recovered any part of it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has put the question; he is replying.

DR. K. L. RAO : Naturally, all efforts are being made; all necessary steps are being taken.

About the political affiliation, as I have submitted already, the main trouble is due to the labour unrest of these categories that I have given—that is to say, the clerks, the peons, the overseers, the artisans, the welders and so on. And I think that they are more dictated by the economic considerations than by political considerations.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the Chairman gave me specific permission that after the Calling Attention Notice . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, but let this formal business be over.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : He told me . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : This is a matter of only one or two minutes. Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
NOTIFICATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) making certain corrections in the Ministry of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs (Department of Internal Trade) Notification S.O. No. 4665, dated the 12th November, 1969, which was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 8th December, 1969. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2886/70]

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (EXCLUDING RAILWAYS) FOR THE YEAR 1969-70

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Expenditure of the Central Government (excluding Railways) for the year 1969-70.

STATEMENT RE PROROGATION OF THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR ASSEMBLY

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Reddy, if your purpose is already served, would you still like to raise the point of order?

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, there was a question raised on Friday, even before the Lok Sabha raised the matter. It is not a question that I am raising it, but the whole House supported it and Mr. Akbar Ali Khan, the Vice-Chairman, told the Minister about it and you, Sir, were later kind enough to tell the Whip and the Minister, and the Government knew that the House was adjourning at 5.30 P.M. The Whip knew that, I talked to them personally. You were also, Sir, pleased to state that you were not satisfied with the Whip's answer. The Cabinet consists of 53 members, just as a pack of cards, with one Joker as some Member said. Were they so busy that they cannot find out the information before the Rajya Sabha adjourned? This is not the first time; they have made it a habit. I requested the Chair that he should not permit the Government to make a habit of it. I have been in this House since Dr. Radhakrishnan's days. I know the dignity of the House has been kept up. It is not a question that in the Lok Sabha they made a very big statement but the principle behind it. There are 53 members of the Cabinet. If the Home Minister could not make the statement here, there are two other Ministers who can come down and make the statement. If they cannot get any further information, at least let them come and tell