

Troops were called out, though they were not actually utilised, at Jamshedpur (Bihar) between 24th December 1969 and 3rd January 1970 during the strike by workers in the various Engineering Works and at Imphal (Manipur) between 25th and 28th January.

† FOREIGN CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTRES

242. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:
SHRI M. K. MOHTA:
SHRI A. D. MANI:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a machinery has been set up to investigate into the establishment of Cultural and Information Centres by diplomatic missions in the country for regulation of their activities in conformity with the decisions taken in 1954; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of that machinery?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) No specific machinery has been set up for this purpose. The Ministry of External Affairs have, however, considered the matter and Government's decision has been stated on the floor of the House on 26th February, 1970 in response to the Calling Attention Motion on this subject.

STATEMENT

REPORTED DECISION OF GOVERNMENT TO ASK ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO CLOSE DOWN THEIR CULTURAL AND INFORMATION CENTRE, SUPPORTED OR SPONSORED BY THEM OR BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS, WHICH ARE LOCATED IN INDIA OUTSIDE THEIR HEADQUARTERS, OR THEIR OTHER CONSULAR OR, TRADE OFFICES

Government had, in February 1954, informed all diplomatic missions in India that the stationing of diplomatic offices or establishments of sections of diplomatic missions at places other than the capital, without the approval of the Government of India was not in consonance with the accepted international practice. Further, that the Government of India were unable to recognise such establishments and sections as being parts of the diplomatic missions. The diplomatic missions were advised that should they consider it necessary to have offices located outside the Indian capital to look after their interests, they should seek specific approval of the Government of India.

2. Recently, Government have reiterated this position and have asked the diplomatic missions to close within a period of three months all their offices or establishments located in cities or towns other than those in which the missions or their consulates or trade offices are located. The diplomatic missions have been further advised that should any of them wish to hand over any of their establishments like cultural centres, Libraries etc. to the Government of India, the Ministry of External Affairs would be prepared to discuss the arrangements.

3. We are awaiting information requested from the Diplomatic Mission. It has been explained to them that our decision contemplating closure of information and cultural centres run by foreign Missions in places where they do not have diplomatic, consular or trade offices is to regulate their working on a uniform basis. As in the past, Government would continue to promote cultural relations with all friendly countries. It is hoped that the decision of the Government will lead to improvement in the quality of our cultural contacts.

† DHAKESWARI COTTON MILLS

346. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has been paid by the Government of India to restart

† Transferred from the 25th February, 1970.

† Transferred from the 27th February, 1970.

the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills Suryanagar, Asansol;

(b) how many workers have been asked to join the factory by the employer; and

(c) what amount towards Provident Fund dues has not yet been paid by the employer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) No amount has been paid by the Government of India to restart the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills Suryanagar, Asansol.

(b) None.

(c) Rs. 8.99 lakhs.

† ASSISTANCE TO MADHYA PRADESH FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS ETC.

401. SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have demanded any assistance from the Union Government for the construction of roads for linking the villages of the States with the nearby towns during the Fourth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Do not arise as the Central assistance for the State Plans is provided in the form of block loans and block grants and is not related to any individual scheme/programme included in the State Plans.

12 Noon

REFERENCE TO SITTING OF THE RAJYA SABHA ON FRIDAY, THE 6TH MARCH, 1970

MR. CHAIRMAN: A request has been made to me that tomorrow may be declared a holiday on account of

Shivaratri. (*Interruption*). As opinions are conflicting, I wanted to know the sense of the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Let us hear the Leader of the House.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI K. K. SHAH): That is a non-official day and therefore I am entirely in the hands of the House. We will be guided by you.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): That argument should not be put forth.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You ask all leaders.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): May I submit, let there be a holiday tomorrow for Shivaratri and let us sit on Saturday and work.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): We have got our appointments on Saturday.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have no objection normally if the hon. Members want it. Only one non-official day we get in a week. I am ready if Saturday is treated as a Private Members' Day. Otherwise in a fortnight we get one non-official day for Bills. If we give up this non-official day for Bills, we will have in this part of the session practically no non-official day for Bills. If Saturday you sit, I am ready.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS (Uttar Pradesh): I would like to make a submission. Let us try to understand the correct nature of the question. As we are told, a Member of the House has requested the Chairman to declare tomorrow a holiday because of Shivaratri. I tried to look into the practice in past. What I found is this. In 1969, that is last year, 15th of February, happened to be Saturday and it was a gazetted holiday, but it was off-session, the Rajya Sabha was not in session at that time. The year previous to that, that is 1968, on 26th February, which happened to be Monday, it was Shivaratri. It was a gazetted holiday. Not only that, the house was in session, but that day

† Transferred from the 27th February, 1970.