

I think, it will be in order. I expect and hope so.

श्री हयातुल्ला अन्सारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, मैं एक मजेशन देना चाहता हूँ चेयरमैन। कल लोकसभा में स्पीकर साहब ने बतलाया कि उन्होंने यूरोप और हमारे मुल्को में एक रिवोल्यूशनरी बेल देखी है। जिस समय कोई प्रादमी बहुत शोर करता है और चेयर का हुक्म नहीं मानता है तो वह बेल बजा दी जाती है। उस बेल का इतना शोर होता है कि सब बैठ जाते हैं। हमारे हाउस में भी इस तरह की बात होती है और मैं चाहूँगा कि हमारे हाउस में भी इस तरह की बेल मगाई जाय।

REFERENCE TO STRIKE OF CERTAIN STAFF ON THE SOUTH EASTERN AND NORTH-EAST FRONTIER RAILWAYS

SHRI MONOMANJAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, yesterday we were given a statement by the hon. Railway Minister. We have carefully gone through the statement. Over and above that, this morning in the papers we found two things. One is that the strike on the South Eastern Railway has been settled. We do not know how it has been settled and what are the terms of the settlement because in the statement we find preposterous things which as a trade union leader we cannot believe that it is so. The Railway Minister is saying that when some shunters were beaten by the police the railway workers and workmen as a whole demanded that not only should the policemen be arrested but they should be bound handcuffed and paraded. Only for that there was a strike in two or three Divisions. And the entire work was stopped and a deadlock was created. Did the Railway Minister really make any enquiry and know for certain whether the entire work was stopped by thousands and thousands of railwaymen only because their demand was that the policemen should be handcuffed and paraded or because there was something else? Now that it has been settled, I would like to know

from the Railway Minister what were the terms of settlement exactly.

With regard to the North-East Frontier Railway, nowadays we find that it has rather become a habit to evade the real issues and to say that everything has been done by the Naxalites.

In Siliguri there was an incident on the 2nd of July and also on the 4th July there was another incident. On the 4th and 22nd July there were arrests, two railway men were arrested, and one was arrested on the spot when he alleged that the CI was stabbed there. On the 22nd there were other arrests. From the 23rd onwards the strike started.

During the Railway Budget, the grievances of the Diesel Shed people in Siliguri were put forth, which we expected that he would consider. The grievances of the Diesel Shed workmen in Siliguri are accumulated for months and months and years and years. I would not like to go into the details of these Diesel Shed men's grievances. They are very burning issues. They have been representing to the authorities at Katihar and also to the Railway Ministry. But nothing has been done with regard to their grievances. How is it that because two railwaymen were arrested, the strike started on the 23rd. It spread to New Jalpaiguri on the 24th. Then on the 28th it spread to Alipurdwar Junction and then to Katihar, and spread to other stations also.

Is this strike an outburst as a result of the arrest of two workmen or because of the accumulated grievances? I should like to know clearly from the Railway Minister. Secondly, does the Railway Minister expect that on this occasion the only panacea is to use the Territorial Army at has appeared in the papers? I should like to know what they are going to do there. May I know whether the Government would go into the details of the grievances of the workmen or they would depend upon the Army to run the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): There may be more points for clarification. It would be better if I listen

[Shri Gulzarilal Nanda.]

to all of them and then give a connected reply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is that a good arrangement?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the strike on the Southern Railway has been called off but it is still continuing on the North-East Frontier Railway. Will the hon'ble Minister come forward with similar assurances that were given to the Southern Railwaymen that there will be no victimisation and that all the arrested persons will be released? That will pave the way for a settlement in the North-East Frontier Railway.

Secondly, the main reason for the strike on both the Railways was the running staff. I may draw the attention of the Railway Minister in this connection to the treatment given to the running staff in the various Railways which sparked off strikes in 1967 and now in the Southern Railway and the South-Central Railway and very recently in Dongregarh. In these two cases it is only the running staff, the diesel driver and the locomotive driver, who are concerned. Would the Railway Minister consider why a strike sparked off as a result of some small incident is affecting thousands of workers in the Railways?

May I draw the attention in this connection of the Railway Minister to the case where some Railway union people went in deputation to the General Manager of the Northern Railway where he recklessly commented on the Minister as casual labour, and therefore he need not bother about Ministers because Ministers come and go whereas he was the administrator? Is it not this tendency which sparks off strikes. If it is so, will the Minister take it up with the Railway Administration and look into the grievances of these people?

I will again repeat my point. Will the hon'ble Minister be in a position to assure this House that there will

be no victimation of the railwaymen of the North-East Frontier Railway and that all the arrested people will be released so that normalcy is restored in the North-East Frontier Railway?

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): In the concluding paragraph of the statement by the honourable Minister, he has made an appeal to the patriotic sense of the railwaymen of our country to resume their work. It says:—

"I have made a personal appeal to the patriotic sense of Railwaymen of both the Railways and have asked them to return to work immediately. I have assured them that their interests would receive sympathetic consideration, and I am prepared personally to look into and redress any legitimate grievances."

Now it is very good on his part that he has taken the responsibility personally to look into the legitimate grievances of the railwaymen concerned in the strike. May I know whether the hon'ble Minister taken pains to have some contacts or consultation with the recognised trade unions of railwaymen in these two branches of the Railways?

Instead of having a joint discussion with all the railwaymen's organisations, what result can be achieved by merely giving certain personal assurances?

SHRI GOLAP BARBORA (Assam): There are staff associations which are not recognised.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I mean all the unions, staff associations and even departmental associations.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Let all of them be recognised.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Unless you have a joint discussion with the organised labour, the matter cannot be settled. Why has not the Railway Minister taken the trouble to have discussions with the representatives of the railwaymen concerned in this matter?

Now, the strike in the North-East Frontier Railway has been declared

illegal under the Essential Services Maintenance Act. I do not know why the Government has taken such a drastic step. Without having a discussion with the railwaymen, without exploring all the avenues for a settlement, why have they taken such a drastic measure of declaring the strike illegal? I think this has, instead of easing the situation, rather made it more complicated, and it might have hardened the attitude of the railwaymen. In this connection, I want to know whether any railwaymen have so far been arrested after the declaration of the strike as illegal. And what other repressive measures have been taken after declaring his strike illegal under the Essential Services Maintenance Act?

Lastly, I want to know whether the Railway Minister is aware that the running staff, particularly the loco staff, have got certain long-standing grievances. I have with me a large number of their grievances but I think this is not the proper time to bring to his notice all these grievances. Will he take the trouble of looking into all the legitimate grievances, take into confidence the representative of all the trade unions and try to come to a settlement so that there will be no victimisation and there will not be such strikes in the future?

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM (Assam): Sir, it appears that due to the strike at Siliguri and Alipur Duar, there has been no railway communication between Assam and the rest of the country since July 23, and as a result, there has been suffering and hardship to a large number of passengers at Gauhati and at this part of Siliguri. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken by the Government to remove the difficulties of these suffering passengers and how soon the railway communication is going to be restored?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore): Sir, the statement read out by the hon. Minister of Railways reveals a very sad story. What is the genesis of the entire trouble? The loss caused and the disturbances

that have occurred are colossal compared to the genesis of the entire trouble. It arose in connection with the conduct of the half-yearly examination in a particular school called the Banimandir Higher Secondary School. And this spreads from State to State. I am more concerned with the law and order situation in the most vulnerable part of India, i.e. Assam, West Bengal and other places. Can this small incident spark off such a big disturbance as this? If that is so, I and this House feel most concerned with the situation that is obtaining in that part of the country. After all, whether the half-yearly examination should be conducted or not was a matter to be settled between the boys of that school and the Headmaster. For that, the boys take the law into their own hands, break the lock and burn the valuable records of the Headmaster; the people then join them and "gherao" the S.D.O. and so on. And what follows is a very sad story indeed. This is a matter of the greatest concern to the entire country and the Parliament that such a small thing can lead to devastating results like this.

Why should such a small thing give rise to such great disturbances? The working of the steel plant is affected. Six thousand wagons have stopped moving. Thousands of passengers are stranded everywhere. This is all a very sad state of affairs. I am glad that the Railway Minister has taken the bold step of declaring these services as essential services. Such a bold action is very necessary in order to prevent these unruly elements from playing havoc in the country and destroying the very foundations of the existence of our country . . .

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Reddy, you are sorry that fifty persons have not yet been shot dead.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: You are putting things into my mouth which I have not said. This is very unfair. I am sure you are equally concerned over the situation. (Interruptions). This is a matter of

[Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy.]

the greatest importance and the elements responsible for this situation must be squarely dealt with. This contagion is spreading from Bengal to other States also. This is all inspired by the Naxalite philosophy. As was stated by Mr. Mohan Dharja the other day—it was also stated by the honourable Minister—this has got to be nipped in the bud; otherwise, this will spell danger to the entire country. Therefore, I request the Railway Minister, not only the Railway Minister—this is not a matter which concerns the Railway Minister alone—but also the Prime Minister who is in charge of the affairs of West Bengal, to give us an assurance that suitable action would be taken in this vulnerable area and that such ruinous things would not be allowed to take place in other parts of the country. This is my humble submission.

I would like to say one more thing. The honourable Railway Minister, of course, is a very generous person. I shall read out one sentence of his from the statement he made here:

"I have assured them that their interests would receive sympathetic consideration . . ."

What have those interests got to do with this trouble that has arisen? What is the genesis? Is it on account of their grievances that this trouble has arisen? By all means redress the grievances of the railwaymen if they have any. I would not stand in their way. You can provide whatever relief is necessary to them. But my question is: Has this trouble arisen on account of the grievances of the railway employees? Or, has this trouble arisen on account of the goonda elements that are at work in the railways? Therefore, I say that it is the responsibility not only of the Railway Minister, but of the entire Government of India to see that this Naxalite menace is put an end to. I want the Railway Minister and the Prime Minister to give an assurance to this House that these disturbing elements will be put an end to and that peace and harmony would be restored in that part of the country.

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

श्रीमन् जैसा कि समाचार पत्रों से अज ज्ञात हुआ, यह हड़ताल समाप्त हो गयी है। तो पहले तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस प्रकार का समझौता हुआ है और उस समझौते की शर्तें क्या हैं। एक छोटी सी घटना के कारण सारे मेकेशन में इतनी भीषण हड़ताल हो जाय ऐसा मैं मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूँ। इसमें अवश्य कुछ ऐसी बात है कि वहाँ पहले से ही कुछ ऐसी बातें चल रही थी, कुछ असंतोष चल रहा था कि जिस के कारण से यह हुआ है। तो मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी ने इस बात की जांच की है कि इस प्रकार के एलीमेंट्स, इस प्रकार के तत्व आप अगर गलत न हों तो मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि अग्रणीय तत्व वहाँ पर सक्रिय हैं कि जिन के कारण से बराबर इस प्रकार के इन्टीगेशन होते हैं, और लोगों को भड़काया जाता है, उन को उकसाया जाता है और उनके कारण ही यह असंतोष फैल रहा है और उस की वजह से ही एक छोटी सी चिन्तारी ने इतना भीषण रूप धारण कर लिया। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी की जांच का व्यौरा इस विषय में क्या है ?

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu): May I know from the hon. Minister the genesis of the *causa prima* of the strike? I am also happy that I am not ashamed to say that the hon. Minister has taken a personal interest in his job. I think he has also gone there. It has entered into his mind and he has resolved the strike in one sector. I am sure that the difficulties in the other sector also will be resolved very soon. May I know from the hon. Minister if he would please try to constitute a committee of Members of Parliament belonging to both the Houses to go to the spot and find out the genesis with the help of the workers, their leaders and the officials for two or three days. No use patching it up here. We have to go there, verify the facts from both sides and discern for ourselves what

could have been the reasons and try to resolve them. I entirely disagree with some of my friends who said that there should be no victimisation, no victimisation. What is wrong in trying to do something to a man who has been responsible for such a colossal thing. Unless there is discipline in any institution and in any activity, things cannot be set right. Unless there is at least one more check, things cannot be all right because every leader says that there should be no victimisation. Ministers say that and officials also say that. They should be bold. One should be bold enough even to risk his life in the interests of the nation. Only such a man should occupy an office of stature. If we remain weak-kneed and cold-breasted, we will not be able to face the situation as it deserves. I want such people and I request Shri Nanda to tackle this situation and appoint a committee of Members of both the Houses to go to the spot within a day or two to find out the *causa prima* and to do something and to report it to the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): When the discussion was going on in the House, I received a trunk call which said that although agreement had been arrived at yesterday on two points between the authorities and the workers at Siliguri, one part of the agreement is not being implemented. The two points on which agreement had been arrived at are (1) that there should be no victimisation, and (2) Government should not object to bails being granted to those arrested. So far as the second term is concerned, it is being implemented and those arrested are being granted bail. So far as the first term is concerned, the authorities are now saying that no such agreement had been arrived at and no such assurance had been given. This is not true. The trunk call was from Siliguri and it was relayed to me from Calcutta. Therefore, I say that Shri Nanda should personally look into the matter and see that there is no victimisation at all since it has been agreed to.

I would request Shri Nanda that he should go into this question

deeply. Do not talk too much about the Naxalite movement. Now it has become a fashion. Whenever there is any difficulty or trouble, we bring in the question of the Naxalites. We have stressed that point so far that Smt. Indira Gandhi, according to some, has become a Naxalite. It has been heard in the House. Everybody is a Naxalite. Sir, some day, in anger, I may say that you are a Naxalite. Let us not play it up too much.

I may tell you, Sir, that we go to many places in connection with public work. I have been to Siliguri, and I had earlier been to Assam, Gorakhpur. Grievances have accumulated and when we bring them to the notice of the Minister, nothing is done. We get the most heartless or soulless letters rejecting our request for intervention which have no meaning at all. Recently I have got a few letters from Shri Gulzarilal Nanda till he has become the Minister. Since he has become the Minister, not to one letter have I received a favourable reply—all rejections. Whatever the officials say seems to be the end. Therefore, if Members of Parliament intervene trying to help and bring about some kind of settlement, we should be helped just as we are expected to help. The Railway Board seems to think that it is an empire in itself. They do not care for anything. Some officer said that Shri Nanda is a casual labourer. Now, I do not think that he takes it personally. But that is the attitude of the Railway Minister, the General Managers and the Railway Board and all that. I think this should be gone into. Some of these people should be sacked from the Railway Board. They are a nuisance. They are anti-people, anti-working class, utterly unsuited for the job. The Railway Board should be called to book and put in its proper place. So, Mr Nanda, I would appeal to you, for heaven's sake—now that you have taken charge of this Ministry with great experience in labour movement—to see that the Board becomes a little reasonable in such matters and to go into the grievances and when Members of Parliament bring to your

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

notice something, don't send us a reply according to what the Railway Board or the officials say . . . (Interruptions). As you are aware, the First World War was started by one small incident. The biggest crisis in life sometimes is triggered off by such small things. Do not go by the immediate size. Deep discontent is there. Anybody can ignite the situation. This explosive accumulation is so much now that it can do anything. Therefore, go deeply into these things and the Siliguri assurance must be carried into effect and I would request Shri Gulzarilal Nanda to get in touch with the authorities there.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, yesterday I had called for some explanation. But I do not know whether the hon. Minister is aware of it and along with it, those queries about who are responsible for it. No sooner the word 'Naxalite' is mentioned, than my friend, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, gets up. I do not know why. But, anyway it is not the Naxalites that I am very much interested in I am interested in knowing what the reasons are, who are responsible for such atrocities, where the officers are murdered. Sir, is it also a part of the sinister design to cut off Assam, our own territory and the Naxalite movement is interested in doing it? It is a fact known to the whole country. In this situation, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of West Bengal . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Dharia, according to him you are a Naxalite.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: That is all right Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am the least bothered about who is called a Naxalite. My only submission is that if there are activities against the interests of our country, if they are going to cause harm to our integrity, to our sovereignty, then it becomes a serious matter. So, it is in that light that I am interested in knowing all the information and at the same time I am further interested in knowing whether the West

Bengal Government has been rendering proper protection to the railway property and railway officers. There is a serious complaint that there is no proper protection being rendered by the West Bengal Government. If it is true, why proper explanation should not be asked for from the Governor, Shri Dhawan, who is in charge of all these?

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: May I know from him whether the Maharashtra Government is also giving protection to the railways whose losses amounted to millions of rupees in the first six months of 1969, and whether the Maharashtra Government is also giving protection against the Shiv Sena?

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, I am not here to protect the Shiv Sena. I do feel that the Maharashtra Government should take very harsh action against the Shiv Sena, whatever may be the consequences.

(Interruptions).

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) :
उप सभापति जी, मेरा भी एक सवाल है। एक मिनट भी नहीं लूंगा।

श्री भूषण गुप्ता ने जो समझौते की शर्तें बताई हैं कि जो कर्मचारी हैं उनका विक्टिमाइजेशन नहीं होगा तथा मुकदमों के अन्दर बेल को गवर्नमेंट प्रपोज नहीं करेगी, तो वहाँ एक पुलिस का इन्स्पेक्टर था और उसको छुरा मार दिया गया और उनके ऊपर दफा 307 के अन्दर, अटेम्प्ट टु मर्डर के लिये मुकदमा दायर किया गया है तो क्या इसमें भी जो जमानत की अर्जी दी जायगी उसको गवर्नमेंट प्रपोज नहीं करेगी। क्या इस प्रकार मे मर्डर के खिलाफ भी गवर्नमेंट ने ऐसा समझौता किया है? क्या ऐसी बात है? मर्डर्स के खिलाफ भी क्या ऐसी बात होगी? मैं इसको समझ नहीं पाया, मेरी प्रार्थना है कि नन्दा जी जरा इसको साफ करें।

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS (Assam): I am referring to the Siliguri area. The Statement has narrated the

whole development. It has also been pointed out that the grievances of the railwaymen have been piling up without any redress. That also may be one of the causes for such developments taking place in the Siliguri area. Sir I would request this House through you to look at the map and try to understand the strategic position that this particular place occupies. There is a corridor 14 miles wide which connects the entire eastern region with the rest of the country. On both the sides of this corridor lie two countries which are hostile to us. As far as my knowledge goes, a large number of agents of both these countries operate not only in the eastern zone as a whole but particularly round about this corridor. So I want to ask the Railway Minister to let us know whether these developments took place as a result of some small incident or they took place as a result of the piling up of the grievances of the railwaymen unredressed or behind these developments there are certain forces which have been acting to create disruption in this area either to help the enemy countries or for some other purposes. I request the Railway Minister to go into this aspect of the question.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Sir, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta yesterday objected to my long statement. He has become allergic to long statements. So I shall try to be brief. In this case I will first point out that as a sequel to the appeal issued by me there has been good response. I am grateful for it. The South Eastern Railway where the strike was spreading, it has been withdrawn. In the other case the situation remains as it was before. That is, the strike took place and has spread and so far all efforts to settle it have failed. My appeal was addressed to both. What have I done so far about it I have been asked to issue an appeal from here that there will be redress of legitimate grievances. I was told that the better course would be for me of course to meet the representatives of the organisations of workers who are in a position to deliver the goods and to discuss the situation. I have been doing it. Almost every day, once or twice,

I meet the representatives of the All-India Federations.

AN HON. MEMBER: Are you discussing with the leaders of the Loco workers who are CPM leaders and India Federations.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: One of the union functioning there on NEF Railway is affiliated to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. Some of the workers have come here and I talked to them this morning also not the Unions supporting the extension of the strike. I have sent today and yesterday, some of the responsible railwaymen who have helped us in the restoration of normal conditions, in the S.E. Railway. We got their help. They were moved to the spot by air and they have helped. Similarly something has been done to-day about it also. Some people have gone, those who belong to that Railway. I have been enlisting their good offices for contact with the workers and made the offer of the same kind: "Please do not delay resumption. It will not be conducive to their good because as time passes and the situation worsens and the difficulties increase and the people's hardships increase, it will not be possible to tolerate and something more drastic will have to be done soon." The consequences I would not like if the worker is to suffer but as pointed out by some Members here, the situation there is very bad and disturbing, whatever way you look at it. I told some of the workers: 'Have you any idea of this nation also and those vulnerable areas as, an hon. Member said? You do not care as to what is happening there. You disturb the communications, cut us off from Assam. What are you doing? Have you any idea or any sense of loyalty to the nation also?' They may not have thought of it but the fact is that. The sufferings of so many of the passengers and the losses which are arising from day to day are there. In the case of the S.E. Railway the industries are also affected. Already we are suffering from all these curses of unemployment, poverty and all that and we are adding to that. In the case of NF Railway, the situation is much worse than in the case of the S.E. Railway.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : Have you asked the Railway officers also? They are also responsible.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I will cover all these aspects. I am going to say what we propose to do and what we are doing. In this case it was . . .

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The Railway Board and the Officers are presumed to be patriotic while the labourers are not.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I believe some of the officers in this case are involved who are, I should say, worse than the ordinary workers because they are more responsible and I know and something is being done about them also. I know that. This thing has grown, it is true. What are the causes? The diesel workers, are in other parts of the country also. They could have written to me. I am accessible to everybody. Hundreds of letters I write to M.Ps.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: All unhelpful.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: As the Member pointed out, I am not giving any satisfaction. How can I look into each case personally? The method I have adopted is: 'Here is a note which explains the situation'. I do not put the text in my letter. In a number of cases I say: 'You are welcome to discuss this case if you are not satisfied.' It is not possible to look into all these personally and therefore I say: 'If you are not finding it satisfactory, please let us meet and discuss it.' Where particularly something is there, when Members write—the hon. Member remembers the one about the type of bedding . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I never brought it up.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Somebody brought it, but I have taken action and I do it in as many cases as possible. What is it that led to it? Certainly it could not be that this small thing did it. It was certainly there from before. There it had been growing, it had been building up for some time, and we were looking on. I went there, six weeks ago. I met the people everywhere

and I told them, "Please, we shall not submit to these things. We shall not just look on when these things are happening, people *gheraoing* officers and insulting them and harassing their families and all kinds of things happening." And then, simply because we have to purchase peace now, somehow let us settle this point and let us yield to something. I said it will not do, it does not help. Therefore, on the one side discipline has to be enforced, action to be taken wherever it is due, hooliganism is to be resisted. But, on the other side, I am a trade unionist. I am workers' man and, therefore, the first thing for me always would be to see whether there is anything needing to be done on their side. Therefore, even in a bad situation like this my feeling is with them. I shall try to redress any grievance. If it is a legitimate grievance I do redress it, and I am trying to do that also here. But the thing is that, if there are forces at work which do not mean any good to the working class or the railwaymen, if there are other ideas with them, other purposes with them—Now shall we call them Naxalites? I do not know, but I know what they do, and whatever description, whatever appellation you apply to them, it is everybody's concern—the situation causes concern and as some Members pointed out it is a serious situation. Who has caused it? I know it, Sir, from the facts that are before me. Some people go—and it has been happening for weeks—some youngsters go and they go with crackers, small bombs and daggers. They destroy furniture. Their particular interest is in photographs, in the pictures of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in removing them from their places, desecrating them and destroying them. This is what has happened.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order order, please.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: These are facts. These are outsiders and they leave their mark there, it is a *lal salam* from Mao-Tse-tung. Now who are the people

who are advertising Mao-Tse-tung as their chairman? Is Mao Tse-tung their chairman? Is Mao-Tse-tung China's Chairman. But he is being advertised, publicised and glorified here. Who are these people? Their background is before my mind. And I am asked why I am taking drastic action. Well what is the drastic action that has been taken? All that I did, in such a situation in a sensitive area, was that I brought out an Order under the Essential Services Maintenance Act which means, "You please come back to work. This is an illegal strike." It is illegal and I have declared it so. But it has not had the effect. Am I to go on watching the situation doing nothing more? Therefore I have decided that we will move the Railway Territorial Army and we are going to work. But I know I cannot work the whole railways without the workmen. I know that it is only a small number, a proportion, who are doing it. Large numbers are with us but they are being terrorised, being frightened, being cowed down, and therefore we will try to see that we protect them. And they will be protected. I am not going to be held to ransom like this, because it is many people that suffer, it is the working class that suffer, and it is all due to a few people, due to their instigation. I was asked by the hon. Member, Mr. Mohan Dharia, who are the people, who are the parties. All kinds of parties. Some of them may not be bearing any name, but we can call them, as they call themselves, "ML", CPI (ML).

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No "GL".

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: No, very far from me. So, from their cries, from their slogans, from the manner in which they function, we know who these people are. Then they have got a joint committee for coordination in which there are some parties, and I need not mention all the parties. Some parties are helping; some others are there to worsen the situation, aggravate it. Now this is situation, aggravate it. Now 6 P.M. this is the picture. It the cause something more? In the case of the South Eastern Railway it was not a question of stabbing. Therefore we have said that we have no objec-

tion to the people being enlarged on bail. This question of stabbing did not arise there. The stabbing is on the North Frontier Railway. It is the police who has to judge; it is not the Railway. When the crime has occurred it is for the police to take action. When it is found that they are not taking action as in some cases we have found that they have delayed it, then we try to see that something is done. I went to Calcutta a few days ago. I met the Governor; I called the General Manager and in their presence I explained what was happening and he was good enough to give directions that certain actions should be taken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What about Siliguri?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I have discussed Siliguri also with the general background. Some people were arrested; they were arrested because there was an attempt to murder a person. The electric line was cut off. Naturally if the police does not move and bestir themselves, if no one comes, how does anybody else expect that in his case somebody will come to the rescue.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It was the police officer himself who was stabbed.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Yes. When some people are arrested they want them to be released. And they impose conditions, firstly release them and secondly never arrest anybody again. (Interruptions) who can accept these conditions and how was it possible to have any kind of talk on any reasonable basis and agree to anything? Therefore it could not be. There were meetings in Siliguri and some people came in order to prevent workers from going back. The workers wanted to go back but they were prevented. Certainly we have to see that this nation has the strength to meet such a situation and we are going to do that. But all the time I am saying that the workers' interests will be safeguarded. It is in the interests of the workers themselves also that the trains should run; otherwise they will be losing their wages and other consequences will follow. But I have given an assurance

[Shri Gulzarilal Nanda]

that other consequences will not follow in the case of those who have after my appeal gone back to work.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: After your appeal? That is too early.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: It was on the Radio, copies were sent all over on the Telex. It was sent everywhere and I have heard from the people . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: About victimisation.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Whether it was as a result of my appeal or whether it was their good sense, it is a good thing that has happened.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Mr. Nanda, why don't you say, apart from the appeal—that is rather too early—that the workers who will come back will not be victimised?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Why are you so impatient? I am dealing with this. I have said I have given an assurance that these consequence will not follow, i.e., after the appeal. There was a discussion—the men who had gone there—and some assurances were given and I believe the question of victimisation would not arise. That is my own view. You have said something now and I shall look into it. Victimisation has certain meaning. I do not think there should be any victimisation.

Regarding the situation on the N.E. Railway also I hope that good sense will dawn on them in their own interests, in the interests of the economy of the nation, of the people of Assam who have been suffering, of the movement of tea and other things. So much loss is occurring and I hope they will understand that. I have sent word that they also will not suffer if they immediately go back to work. But I am going to take steps that in the future discipline will be maintained. It is with the aid of the workers that I am going to function. I am having a meeting tomorrow with the representatives of the two Federations and their Unions in each Railway and I am going to tell them, "Please let me know. I

can help you". Workers participation in management, in what way we can introduce in the Railways. I am going to ask them.

Anything that is possible I will do to see that they get proper treatment and a fair deal. I am going to do that on my side. It is only with their help that things can be improved and can be carried on properly. So, this is the position. If, later on, still there is no resumption of work, then we will work with the help of this Force, with the help of the workers who want to work. They will be protected and I am sure the State authorities will also give their help. They have promised that they will give the fullest help in maintaining the Railway services and communication and in protecting the workers. I think I have covered most of the points that have been raised.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: One point I mentioned while I was speaking . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already made the point and he has replied to it. No more points now.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The situation in that part . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No more points now please.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: . . . is very serious. The Prime Minister must come here and assure us that she will take steps to see that the safety of the people is not jeopardised. It is a prayer through you to the Prime Minister. Kindly pass on my prayer, my request to her.

(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It has been substantiated by him now.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is for the first time that Mr. Sri Rama Reddy has said: This is my prayer to the Prime Minister. Note the word 'prayer' and convey it.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is a prayer to the Chair to convey it to the Prime Minister. It is a prayer to the Chair.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now, you have denied it.

(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order please.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I want to make a request to the House. The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill, discussion on which started this afternoon, could not be completed and it is being taken over to Monday because the discussion could not be completed today. Unfortunately I was under what I now find to be a mistaken impression that this is a

very small Bill and it would be passed today. I had made certain other arrangements for Monday. If the house would permit me, I should like the discussion to be resumed on Tuesday instead of on Monday. It is entirely up to the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are the Government in agreement with this?

SHRI OM MEHTA: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at eight minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 31st July, 1970.