

Railway Class III and Class IV employees who have been at the maximum of their pay scales for two years or more;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the Lino/Mono Operators working in the Government of India Presses have been at the maximum of their pay scales for the last five to thirteen years or more; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to grant *ad hoc* increment to such persons also?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, some of them.

(c) The question of how the cases of these Employees should be dealt with is under consideration.

PLASTIC FACTORIES

22. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of plastic factories in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that rapid growth of the plastic processing sector is being impaired due to the absence of adequate machine building capacity in the country; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to fill in the gap in respect of the machine building capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) 40 units besides several Small Scale units, the exact number of which is not readily available.

(b) Yes, there is a gap between production in the country and the estimated demand.

(c) The following steps have been taken :

"Transferred from the 27th April, 1970.

(i) Import of plastic machinery is being allowed.

(ii) Government are favourably considering any fresh viable proposals for the manufacture of plastic processing machinery.

12 NOON.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STRIKE IN THE NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION LIMITED AND REPORTED LATHI-CHARGE AND FIRING BY POLICE ON STRIKING WORKERS

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals to the strike in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the reported lathi-charge and firing by police on the striking workers of the Corporation killing one worker and injuring several others.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) : Sir, an industrial dispute existed in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation in regard to wage revision, allowances, fringe benefits and certain other related issues. The Joint Council consisting of the two recognised Unions (Neyveli Lignite Mines Workers Progressive Union and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Staff Union) and all the registered Unions had been formed by the workmen and strike notices were issued by the Unions on the Management in February, 1970. Conciliation proceedings were held by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras in March, 1970. As a result of these proceedings and the intervention of the Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, a settlement was arrived at on 20-3-1970 between the Management and the Joint Council. The settlement arrived at was binding on all the Unions which took part in the conciliation proceedings and was to be effective for a period of 4 years with effect from 1st January, 1970.

Information reached the Central Government that the workers of the N.L.C. had gone on strike with effect from 12 mid-night on 2-5-1970. The reasons for

the sudden strike so soon after the wage settlement which was accepted by the workers, are not clear to the Management. The Management were not given any notice of the strike by the workers' Union. All the four units of the plant, viz. mining, power station, fertilizer and Friketting & Carbonisation Plant, have had to be shut down. Power supply to Tamil Nadu from the Neyveli Power Station has been badly affected. No written reports have so far come in from the Corporation. It has been reported by the Managing Director, N.L.C. that the Tamil Nadu Government has deputed a strong police force and that the Senior Officers of the State Government and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu are keeping in touch with the situation at Neyveli. Section 144 has been imposed at Neyveli with effect from 8 A.M. on 3-5-1970.

After commencement of the strike owing to violent demonstrations on the part of the workers, the police have had to resort to lathi-charges and firing in the air. It has been reported by the Managing Director that there were three firings, two with bullets and one with tear gas, on the 2nd at 9-30 P.M., 3rd at 2-30 A.M. and 9-30 A.M. respectively. There have been several lathi-charges in which about 80 workers are reported to have been injured. Seven officers of the Corporation who were proceeding in a jeep to the master control of the thermal station were stoned and pulled out of the jeep by the workers and were, as a result, injured. The Managing Director has further reported that a police patrol van carrying food packets to the police posted at the thermal station was caught in a road block placed by the workers and was stoned heavily leading to the police resorting to firing in the air during which one of the bullets appears to have ricocheted from somewhere and hit a worker, unfortunately killing him. The name of the worker who was killed is Shri Dr. Venbor. He was working as a welder in the thermal unit of the Corporation. He belonged to the Lignite Mines Labour Union, Neyveli, which is a registered Union. It is reported that after postmortem held at Cuddalore the body was transported by Corporation vehicle to Vellore for the funeral. Six policemen and one sergeant were injured in the incident leading to the death of the worker. The situation

at Neyveli was reported to be calm and quiet at 9-00 A.M. to-day. The management has had talks last night between 12-30 A.M. and 4-00 A.M. with the workers' Unions. The talks have, so far, been inconclusive. Section 144 Cr. P.C. continues to be in force. The Government is closely watching the situation.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know from the honourable Minister whether it is a fact that four clerks in the mines office were placed under suspension on April last on the alleged ground that they were propagating in support of a strike? Is it a fact that after the suspension of these four clerks of the mines section, the workers were generally provoked and all the unions gave the management to understand that if their demands were not fulfilled or acceded to, namely, to take back the four suspended clerks and also to give certain extra allowances for the employees engaged in the mines section, they would go on strike with effect from May 2 and that they also raised certain very vital questions regarding the non-implementation of the agreement reached on March 30 last? That agreement was not properly and faithfully implemented. These were the grievances of all the registered unions and they gave notice of strike to the management. May I know whether, in view of this, the Government still proposes to take initiative in the matter of bringing about an amicable settlement bearing in mind the new issues that have been raised by all the workmen—having regard to the fact that this particular Corporation has a very vital position to occupy in the country, in the industrial activities of the State of Tamil Nadu? The Government has not taken any initiative in the matter of bringing about a settlement with those workers without relying on merely the initiative of the management. I want to know whether the Government of India here and now is going to take any initiative from its end also.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : As I stated in my main statement, we were very anxious that an amicable settlement should be reached. As a matter of fact, a settlement was entered into on 20th March, 1970 with a delegation consisting of the Joint Council which represented 16,600 employees of the Corporation out of 17,000. And it was implemented and a part payment was

[Shri Jagannath Rao.] tion along with their pay packets on May 1. On April 18 they wanted further talks and the Labour Commissioner of Madras while stating that in view of the settlement already arrived at, the question could not be reopened. He, however, agreed to have informal discussions with them. On April 18 they had discussions with the management and their further discussions were postponed for May 2. And on May 1 they went on strike.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : My point has not been answered, whether some four workers were suspended or not and whether there was a demand from the workers' unions for revoking the agreement itself because the agreement was not faithfully implemented. That is the complaint. I wanted to know whether, in view of these developments, the Government, without relying merely on the agreement or the technicalities of it, would take initiative on its own to bring about an amicable settlement at the earliest possible time.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : We are always anxious to have an amicable settlement. As a matter of fact, part payment was made to them on May 1 along with their pay packets. With regard to the suspension of four workers, I have no information.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : But the agreement was not faithfully implemented.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Partly it was implemented. But they went on strike without notice.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I understand that the agreement was not faithfully and fully implemented and that caused unrest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But he is denying it.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : It was being implemented . . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is neither denying it nor accepting it, whether the agreement was fully implemented or not, whether it was faithfully and properly implement-

ed or not. He is neither denying it nor accepting the position . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the answer is enough.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA ME-NON (Kerala) : Sir, from the replies of the Minister it is clear that as is found with some of the public sector managements, in order to cover up their inefficiency and corruption in the management, they provoke labour troubles and create intolerable and impossible situations so that the workers may go on strike and that gives the management a pretext to say that their losses are going up because the workers are going on strike. This is the sort of thing that is happening in some of the public sector managements. Now, in this case, it is clear that despite the fact that on March 20 an agreement was arrived at between the workers' representatives and the management in the presence of the Chief Minister of Madras, the management had not implemented the agreement and they only say that it would have been done by May 1. The agreement was entered into on 20th March and the management had enough time to show their willingness to implement it before 1st May, that is, by the time the workers had got provoked and infuriated and they had already taken a decision to go on strike. Secondly may I know if it is not a fact that the management, in order to create more provocation among the workers, had dismissed three mastries who were in the mining factory and this added another provocation to the workers ? Thirdly, it is stated in the press that at 2-30 A.M. food packets were brought to the police. This is a strange time for bringing food for the police. I should imagine that in the name of bringing food packets, the police vans were being used to transport blacklegs and workers who might have resisted this attempt which led to the firing; otherwise I do not see any reason why at 2-30 A.M. food should be transported for the police. May I know if the Government will impress upon the management of this Corporation to come to a settlement with the representatives of the workers immediately on the outstanding questions and see that there is full implementation of the agreement arrived at?

SHRI JAG VNNATH RAO: As I stated earlier, the management is also anxious to have an amicable settlement with the workers. This agreement was entered into on 12th March and this part payment in pursuance of the agreement, as a result of which the Corporation had to pay Rs. 9.2 lakhs to the workers in instalments, was made on 2nd or 3rd of April and not in May as I said earlier, have here the complete demands which were agreed to. We are implementing them. About the dismissal of three masters, I have not got the information, I will collect it and let you know. About the food packets sent in the night, whether the food packets were meant for early morning or not I do not know but the fact remains that the food packets were meant for the police.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): May I know whether the Minister is aware that the workers in this Corporation, particularly the recognised union under the leadership of the DMK, had asked for the cancellation of the agreement entered into on 20th March? I would quote 'The Hindu' of 3rd May which states very clearly that the Thozhilali Munnetra Sangam which signed the agreement expressed the decision to go on strike from 16 A.M. for the revocation of the settlement. Is he aware that the agreement signed on 20th March contains a large number of anomalies including anomalies about recommendation of engineering cadre and that it is one of the reasons why the trade unions including the recognised union under the leadership of the DMK had asked for the cancellation of the agreement? Is he aware of the irregularities pointed out by the trade unions? Secondly, is he aware of the fact that the 16,300 odd workers who went on strike were unanimous in the decision about the strike and only a few blacklegs, the so-called "loyal" workers were left out? Of course the police were there; and the most shameful thing was the brutal police repression and firing. I will quote 'The Hindu' of 4th May. It says that then there were cases of harassment and manhandling of loyal workers. It is very clearly indicated here. Is he aware of this fact? Lastly, I would ask if police repression is the way to solve this? Instead of settling the genuine demands of the workers, the Government is imposing Section 144 and posting strong police force there. Is this

the way to solve the problem? Should you not enter into negotiations with the workers for settling their genuine demands?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: My information is that the workers, having entered into an agreement on 20th March, made further demands and they wanted the management to accept them. The Labour Commissioner, while taking the stand legally that for 4 years the agreement should remain, still had informal discussions with them on 18th April and called for further discussions on 2-5-70. I quite agree that putting down violence is no solution but why should there be violence when the management is willing and the State Government is cooperating with the management in arriving at a settlement? Till to-day the Chief Minister of Madras and the management are anxious that peaceful conditions should prevail and violence should not be resorted to and that a settlement is arrived at at the earliest possible moment.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): As we have seen, those connected with the mines are not very happy with the Ministry. They do not know what to do, whether it is a coal mine or a lignite mine. The relations of the workers with the NCDC are extremely bad because the Government have failed to implement the Wage Board recommendations. Coming to the Lignite Corporation, is it not a fact that the main dispute arose because there the clerks connected with the mine demanded that they should be paid mining allowance? Is it not a fact that this particular Corporation belonging to the State, which claims to be a model employer, had not till to-day, implemented the recommendations of the Electricity Wage Board and as a result the workers of this Corporation are getting less than what they should? This refusal to pay the mining allowance and the refusal to implement the Electricity Wage Board have led to this situation. The Police entered the houses and beat the workers and resorted to unnecessary firing and the area has been turned into a prison. In view of this would they concede the demands for mining allowance and implement of the Electricity Wage Board recommendations? Would they also consider sending the Chief Labour Commissioner to Tamil Nadu so that an immediate settlement is arrived at?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: This Corporation is a multi-unit complex and it produces power, fertilisers and it is also a bricketing and carbonisation unit. So the wages fixed were done taking into consideration the local conditions prevailing in the locality. The agreement of 20th March was after consideration of all these demands. They were considered and an agreement was arrived at. That is being implemented but then the strike has come and further demands have been made and they are looking into them. If necessary and if there is no agreement, the Chief Labour Commissioner will be asked to go there and see that there is a settlement. I do not want any firing anywhere.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Is he aware that the Electricity Wage Board recommendations have not been implemented? Is he going to implement it?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : About the implementation of the Wage Board for Electricity workers, this is not one of the points discussed. I would lay it on the Table.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat) : Will the Minister tell us why there is so much labour unrest or labour militancy in the public sector projects alone? Answer the straight question. Do not dodge. I am asking a straight question. I have nothing behind it like other friends.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : There has been an agreement . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Should I take the answer from these friends? If that is so, I will say that the Government are not implementing their part of the agreement and therefore there is this trouble. You are forcing me to accept them. That is what they want. They want the people to believe them. I am not willing to believe them, because I have seen your performance in the public sector projects. When your performance is bad, you blame somebody else. Your relations with labour are bad and you want to call yourself an ideal employer. That means at the expense of the poor people of India the public sector projects are losing more and more money. Whatever happens you put your idle bureaucrats, your inefficient bureaucrats in management. Your labour relations are

very bad. Therefore you have losses and there is nobody to pull you up. This is clearly one more example how your public sector projects work. And you have no answer; you don't even answer the questions that I put to you in Parliament.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, my friend, Mr. Dahya-bhai Patel has made a reflection on us . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :
No reflection; it is a fact.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : ... by saying that he does not have anything behind his mind like some of us. All that I would like to know is, has he got a mind at all.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Sir, strikes are a common feature not only in the public sector undertakings but also in the private sector undertakings but in the public sector undertakings they are highlighted because Parliament has the right to discuss all these matters. What is important is that the causes for the strikes should be eliminated.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I am glad that the management is taking the help of the Chief Minister of Madras and I am sure through his good offices some amicable settlement will be reached shortly.

Now, Sir, I would like to know—I am following up the question of Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, my leader—if it is not a fact that a few days before there was a strike in the Heavy Engineering Corporation and there was trouble in the Hindustan Steel. Then I believe the Surgical Instruments Ltd. is closed down; it is not functioning. Also there is some trouble in the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. I want to know whether there is any connection between this strike and the other strikes that were there previously. Is there any link? Would the Government make some probe into this matter and tell us whether there is some connection between this trouble and the previous troubles?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Strikes are taking place in different parts of the country. I cannot say whether there is any relation between a strike in West

Bengal and a strike in Tamil Nadu but one thing is there. There is a multiplicity of unions in these corporations. In this case I am not in a position to say what demands were there and whether they were not satisfied with the agreement. V

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : There is a parallel. (in a particular day in a particular month an agreement is arrived at between the parties and then later on with it giving any notice the strike is started). Is there any similarity between Neyveli and other places so far as the nature of the trouble is concerned?

DR. K. M/THEW KURIAN : May I point out the link? The common factor behind all these strikes is the callousness of the management in the public sector undertakings.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Tamil Nadu) : From the deliberations on this motion it has become crystal clear that at the intervention of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu they have arrived at a settlement, at the same time a unanimous settlement, on 20th March 1970. Even after that settlement we come to know that the workers in Neyveli have resorted to a sudden strike on Monday. There are many important categories; for any strike but at the same time there is an immediate cause for every strike. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the terms of the agreement which was entered into unanimously between the workers and the management of the Neyveli Corporation, whether there are any terms which are for immediate implementation, whether there was any specific time limit, and whether the management failed to implement those terms agreed to unanimously by the workers and the management there. Further I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that is the immediate cause for the present situation there.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : I do not think there is any time limit for this. This agreement which was entered into on the 20th March, 1970 will have retrospective effect, will come into force from 1st January 1970 and will remain in force for a period of four years when the agreement was to be implemented. In pursuance of the agreement some payment was made on the

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2nd or 3rd of April. I do not think there was any immediate provocation on that account. They have made some fresh demands and the Labour Commissioner had discussed with them on the 18th April and they were to have further discussion on 2nd May but unfortunately the strike was started by that time.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister if it is not a fact that one of the terms states that Rs. 92 lakhs were to be given as salary and allowances to the workers and I want to know whether that amount was to be disbursed within a specific period and whether the management failed to pay that amount and it is due to that that the strike has been resorted to by the workers.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Sir, the effect of the agreement of 20th March would result in a payment of Rs. 92 lakhs by the Corporation to the workers under different heads; it was not an immediate payment to be made; it was to be phased in instalments.

SHRI T. K. SRINIVASAN : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the Tamil Nadu Government will look after this and the management will agree to whatever is decided but he has not specifically said what part the Central Government is going to play in this matter. He said that the agreement has been partly fulfilled. I would like to bring to your kind notice that any agreement even when it is fully fulfilled is only a part fulfilment of the grievances of the labourers. Here it is a case of part fulfilment of the agreement; what about the fulfilment of the other part of the agreement?

The next point is, Mr. Chitta Basu pointed out that four clerks were removed from service. That is victimisation of the trade union people. If victimisation exists then the trade union spirit itself goes away. I would like to know what action the Minister is going to take about reinstating the victimised employees in the service. What is he going to do in this matter. If that is settled, the labour unrest there will also be settled and the labour will cooperate with the management to bring about normalcy.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : We are grateful to the State Government of Tamil Nadu, and to the Chief Minister particularly, for taking keen interest in this matter and whatever decision is arrived at by the State Government will be accepted and we will implement that.

श्री प्रेम मनोहर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं एक छोटा सा प्रश्न जानना चाहूंगा कि जो कैमिकल सेक्शन इसमें हैं जैसा कि अभी मंत्री जी ने बताया कि फर्टिलाइजर सेक्शन है और टिटेनियम डाइआक्साइड सेक्शन है तो उसमें जो मिनिमम वेज बोर्ड की रिकमेंडेशन्स हैं, वह वहां पर पूरी तरह इम्प्लीमेंट की गयी हैं या नहीं और नहीं की गयी हैं तो क्यों नहीं की गयी हैं? और उन सारी रिकमेंडेशन्स को कब तक आप पूरी तरह लागू करेंगे?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: As I said, it is a multi-unit complex and the Fertiliser Wage Board or the Engineering Wage Board does not apply as such but the prevailing labour conditions in the locality are taken into consideration when the wages are fixed.

श्री प्रेम मनोहर : इसमें इंजीनियरिंग का सवाल कहीं नहीं है। यह तो दो सेक्शन्स का सवाल है। आपका एलेक्ट्रिसिटी या कैमिकल डिपार्टमेंट जो है उसमें एक फर्टिलाइजर सेक्शन है और एक टिटेनियम डाइआक्साइड सेक्शन है। वहां पर कैमिकल इंडस्ट्री के लिए जो वेज बोर्ड ने रिकमेंडेशन्स की हैं, उनको इम्प्लीमेंट किया है या नहीं? यह आप मुझे बतायें।

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : That is what I said. It is a multi-unit complex, it consists of a power unit, a fertiliser unit and some other things and it is not possible to implement the Wage Board Awards as such to each unit.

SHRI PREM MANOHAR : There is a Wage Board for electricity department. If you do not implement the Wage Board recommendations how do you expect that the public would implement it? You yourself do not implement your recommendations, but expect these things to be implemented by the public and you say you are a socialistic Government. Why do not implement it? What is the reason why you do not im-

plement these recommendations? You give us a reply.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : Being a multi-unit complex, the Wage Board recommendations cannot be implemented as such. The wage fixed is Rs. 1.85 minimum.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He says that the recommendations cannot be implemented.

SHRI PREM MANOHAR : Why have the Government themselves not implemented the recommendations? That is the question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a matter of discussion, but he has replied to your question. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI PREM MANOHAR : They call themselves socialist and serving the poor.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have called Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is a public sector undertaking under the Government" of India. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to give protection to the workers and see that their interests are safeguarded. A special responsibility devolves on us. First of all, I do not like the statement of Mr. Karanamidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He said that violence would not be tolerated. The issue is not violence. The issue is how best it can be settled to the satisfaction of the workers who are entitled to certain wages, but who have been denied of it. I protest against the police firing and all that. The police should not have sent. May I appeal to my friends of the DMK here to speak to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on behalf of some of us? We are of the view that such use of police force against the workers is most deplorable and should not be resorted to. I should like to know why the Central Government did not take steps to send their representative, the Labour Commissioner or somebody, immediately in order to discuss this matter and bring about a settlement from the point of view of the workers' interests. It is their duty to look after their interests, which they have not done. Even now they are not taking such steps. They are happy because they think that the Chief

Minister is dealing with it. I am not saying that the Chief Minister should not come into the picture, but it is not a law and order problem. It is a problem of worker-employer relations and in this case it is the Central Government. The Central Government should settle it in a proper way to the satisfaction of the workers, so that the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is not troubled over a matter like this. Certainly he is not called upon to send the police force. May I make a suggestion? Mr. Jagannath Rao himself should go there. Sometimes you should go there. The trouble is you do not move somehow. You go to other places. Here is an important complex, a public sector complex, where an industrial situation develops like that resulting in police firing and in dissatisfaction and discontent among the workers. Is it not the duty of the Labour Department or the Department concerned, to be seized of the matter and send some of their Ministers to study the situation on the spot and give a helping hand in solving the problem? Why this was not done? My friend, Mr. J. J. Alyan Roy, has put a simple question, why the recommendation of the Electricity Wage Board has not been accepted and implemented? Now, do you think that this should be implemented and, if so, have you sent any communication to the parties there saying that it should be accepted? Sentiments will not do. The working-class problem is such that it cannot be handled by some expression of good sentiments alone. Everybody wants to be happy, but they cannot be happy when it comes to shooting down the workers. Therefore, from this forum of Parliament I would appeal to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister not to make the police force available to the employers to shoot down the workers and beat them up and I think Mr. Karunanidhi will be well advised to ask the Government of India to come and settle the problem with the workers to the satisfaction of the workers instead of relying on the use of police violence and terror which is the case at present. The whole area has been plunged in terror we are told. Terror has been let loose, because the police works under the orders of the authorities concerned. Therefore, I deplore not only the police firing, but the entire attitude of the Central Government and I demand that by the tomorrow morning's plane Mr. Jagannath Rao should go to Madras . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have already made the point.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My friend here would be happier if you go by today's plane, but they are always a little late, as you know. Today's plane has perhaps left. If it has not left, you better leave by that plane. . .

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): IAF plane.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He says IAF plane, but by IAF or helicopter, whatever you like, you go. I have no objection, but reach there.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: The House knows that it is an autonomous corporation. The corporation has got full authority to enter into any agreement about the wage structure with the workers there. We do not come into the picture at all. It is not necessary. . .

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

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Let me finish.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have made a wrong statement. How long the Minister should be allowed to make a facile, wrong statement? Everybody knows that even in respect of public sector undertakings such as the LIC, Hindustan Steel and so on, the Government is responsible to Parliament. Autonomy of the public sector does not mean that the Government is out of the picture. The fund is sanctioned and questions are admitted and put to you. You also come in, the Ministers. When the question of the LIC came up, which is an autonomous corporation, Mr. Krishnamachari did not behave in this manner. Mr. Krishnamachari did not say that it was an autonomous corporation and, therefore, he was not responsible for it. When the Ministers are in a fix or in difficulty, they take cover under the fact that these are autonomous corporations. Everybody knows that these are autonomous corporations, but these are run, to a great extent, by the Secretaries of the Departments concerned and again again the managements of these autonomous corporations complain that they are subjected to so many directions from the Secretaries of the Ministries concerned. Therefore, you

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.] cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hound. Kindly tell us what you are going to do.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: I never said that the Central Government is not responsible. The Central Government is accountable to Parliament about the working of the public sector undertakings. All that I have said is that it is an agreement that has been entered into between the employers and employees. We are in constant touch with the Managing Director and this morning we had a talk at 9.30. We are watching it and, if necessary, I will fly.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What about your going there?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If necessary, he is prepared to go there.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I would like you go.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1968-1969) OF THE HINDUSTAN LATEX LTD., NEW DELHI AND RELATED PAPERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR S. CHANDRASEKHAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Third Annual Report and Accounts of the Hindustan Latex Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1968-69, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company. [Placed in Library.

See No. LT-3313/70 for (i) and

CORRIGENDUM TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (1967-68) OF THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NEW DELHI AND AUDIT REPORT THEREON

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of a Corrigendum to the Annual Accounts of the AH India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1967-68 and the Audit Report thereon, laid

on the Table on August 5, 1969. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3165/70].

ANNUAL REPORT (1968-69) OF THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR ORGANIC CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Development Council for Organic Chemical Industries for the year 1968-69, under sub-section (4) of section 7 of the Industries. (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3386/70].

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1968-69) OF THE COCHIN REFINERIES LIMITED AND RELATED PAPERS

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Cochin Refineries Limited, for the year 1968-69, together with Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3451/70 for (i) and (ii)].

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Department of Petroleum and Chemicals) Notification S. O. No. 19, dated the 22nd December, 1969, (in English and Hindi), under sub-section (1) of section 12-A of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2521/70].

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1968-69) OF THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LTD., CALCUTTA AND RELATED PAPERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of section 619-A of the