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**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE****REPORTED DECISION TO BYPASS THE ORISSA
GOVERNMENT ENGINEERING
ORGANISATION IN THE MATTER OF
CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT THE AERO
ENGINE FACTORY AT SUNABEDA**

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the reported decision to bypass the Orissa Government Engineering Organisation, specially set up for the purpose of constructing all civil, electrical and public health works in the Aero Engine factory of the H.A.L. at Sunabeda in Orissa.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Sir, I am to inform the Rajya Sabha that in consideration of the urgent necessity for executing civil works at the Aero-engine factory of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at Sunabeda, the State Government had agreed to make arrangements for execution of civil works. All the factory works and a major portion of the town-ship works have been sanctioned and are being executed by the Orissa Government. It is expected that these works will be substantially completed in 1968.

2. In September, 1967, it was suggested by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. that since only a small part of civil works remained to be constructed the responsibility of civil construction for the remaining works might be taken over by them: In the case of Nasik Division of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., where the construction was entrusted to the Maharashtra Government, the responsibility was

similarly taken over by the Company when bulk of the works had been completed. This arrangement was found satisfactory as in any case an organisation for maintenance of the buildings had to be set up, and the same organisation could takeover the responsibility for the remaining civil works.

3. The Orissa Government was accordingly addressed on 24th September, 1967 for their agreement to the proposal. No reaction was received to this letter, but in the meantime, in response to a request from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., for the deputation of 12 persons with civil engineering experience for undertaking these works certain recommendations were received from the Orissa Government. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. therefore, proceeded with preparatory work for the execution of works under their arrangement.

4. A letter was received from the Chief Secretary, Orissa Government on 9th February, 1968 in which he pointed out that if the responsibility for construction was taken over by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., there would be difficulty in keeping their engineering cadre fully employed. It was suggested that the present set up should continue for the execution of the rest of the work till the project is complete in all respects. This was followed by a telegram in which he pointed out that Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., had issued a tender for the construction of 400 residential quarters and requested that the Company be asked to cancel the tenders.

5. To consider this matter Managing Director, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., went to Koraput. He also had discussions with State Government and clarified to them that Hindustan Aeronautics were quite prepared, for the present, not to take up construction, I work on their own. In that case they

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

would delay setting up the full organisation for maintenance. The Orissa Government have now confirmed that they, i.e., the Government of Orissa could continue the present arrangements under which they carry out the construction work at Sunabeda.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Sir, I am extremely thankful for the decision taken by the Government of India and for having allowed the engineering organisation in Orissa to continue as they have been doing. Could I take it from the reply given to us by the hon. Minister that there would be no difficulty in maintaining the *status quo* and no work would be given by the Government of India on their own to any other agency but this engineering agency of Orissa?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : As a matter of fact the Government of India does not give any work. HAL is an autonomous body and it is the HAL which is doing it. So far as the present work is concerned, HAL has agreed that the construction work will be done through the agency of the Orissa Government and HAL is not proceeding with the tenders which were called for.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The arrangement was till the completion of the project the job would be entrusted to nobody else but the Orissa Government engineering agency and because of the explicit understanding with the Government of India and the HAL the Orissa Government set up this agency headed by a Chief Engineer with 300 engineers and thousands of workers. If there is any disturbance to its functioning there may be a law and order problem in Orissa because so many engineers will be driven out of employment. Now, as it is engineers are out of employment and to add to that if we throw out 300 more engineers to join that unemployed group then there may

be a law and order situation. There are also thousands of workers involved. So I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister that there will be no disturbance in the present arrangement till the MIG factory is completed and the agency that has undertaken the work on behalf of the Orissa Government would do it till the completion of the job.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as the present arrangement is concerned, we are not going to disturb it, the present arrangement is going to continue. About the future it is difficult to say anything at this stage. We are also as conscious as the hon. Member so far as the employment of local engineers is concerned and will not do anything which might complicate the issue.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa): I want to know one particular thing. I want an assurance because temporarily the problem is shelved till 1968 but what will happen after 1968? According to the arrangement that was reached between the Defence Ministry— not the HAL which was not born at that time— and the Government of Orissa a separate engineering organisation was created and a large number of engineers were drafted into that service. Once the work is over in 1968 according to the assurance that has been given now all these people will again be thrown into the streets. I, therefore, want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will prevail upon the HAL to take these people, because they are building up their own engineering cadre already for maintenance, expansion and other things, to see that these people get first preference because of their experience in the MIG factory in the civil works and other things. They should be absorbed first and if there are further vacancies others could be taken.

I should also like to remind him that there is great discontent in Koraput

area because even for Class III and Class IV services it seems the people of Koraput are not fit according to the Defence Ministry. I can also quote figures, if you want to quote figures. Beginning from Class I to Class IV services the men of Koraput and men of Orissa are supposed to be unfit even to be peons, drivers and clerks. You can compare the statistics you have with you. In view of the discontent that is spreading there I want to know from the hon. Minister in the interest of the MIG factory itself whether these people would be given preference. I am not saying that all these persons should be employed, all the persons who will be demobbed. Secondly, I want to know whether cases of persons of the locality also would be favourably considered.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : If the hon.

Member wants that we should carry on the construction work beyond 1968 it will be putting a premium on inefficiency. We want the project to be completed as soon as possible because we want to go in for the production of the MIG aircraft which is very important for our defence. So no guarantee or assurance can be given on that point. About giving preference in employment I would say that for the maintenance work we need very few engineers, about ten to twelve or something like that. The HAL does try to have local people if they are qualified for the job. The hon. Member also raised the question of employment of local people. This question was raised by some hon. Members in the other House also. We examined the question and found that about 90 "7 per cent of people are taken through the local employment agency so far as posts carrying below Rs. 200 are concerned. For other posts qualifications, experience and other things are taken into consideration.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA

(Orissa): Whenever there is a project, undertaken in Orissa we do not get any benefit out of it. That is our experience in Rourkela also. Even in this MIG factory I can tell the hon. Minister that there is no post which carries a salary of Rs. 200 per month occupied by any Oriya or a native of the soil. Those who have got appointments are all in posts below the Rs. 200 level. Now all these engineers will be thrown out of employment and shall I take it like this that the Government wants—the Orissa Government not being a Congress Government—to harass us in all ways so that the law and order situation which is now to some extent good in Orissa may be disturbed? We will not be in a position to employ these engineers because we do not have other avenues in Orissa. Let me not infer from this that this being a defence project the Government of India does not look upon the Orissa engineers to be faithful so that they could be appointed to these jobs or the Defence Department thinks that they will not be able to keep that type of secrets which the Defence Department would like them to keep if they are taken. Therefore, what I wish to say about the employment question is that especially posts above Rs. 200 must be offered to the people of the area and the construction work on the project should be left to us, so that our engineers can do it.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as the question relating to the construction work is concerned, I would request the hon. Member not to be unfair to HAL. It is a defence project and I do not think it would be fair to inject politics into the working of this organisation. They have been doing a fine job and no politics is there. About the employment of local engineers, I would say this is a general problem so far as engineers are concerned. Perhaps the

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

Planning Commission and some other agencies are examining it. So far as HAL is concerned, it will try to absorb the engineers provided they are qualified for the job and they are required for the maintenance work. So far as construction work is concerned, we have already decided that it will be done through the agency of the Orissa Government.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance), under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) Fourteen Notifications (G.S.R. Nos. 413 to 426), dated the 1st March, 1968.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 409, dated the 2nd March, 1968.

(iii) Notification G.S.R. No. 477, dated the 7th March, 1968.

(iv) Two Notifications (G.S.R. Nos. 469 and 470), dated the 9th March, 1968.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT-469/68]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962 AND THE CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT ACT, 1944

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, I also lay on the Table a copy each of the three Notifications (G.S.R. Nos. 466 to 468), dated the 9th March, 1968, of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue and Insurance), under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 and section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-470/68].

RE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATE OF PUNJAB

(Hon. Members Hood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagat Narain.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): May I invite your attention to the developments in Punjab . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have decided that there should be a Short Duration Discussion on Punjab tomorrow at 5 p.m. for two hours. Tomorrow the House will sit through lunch and the Budget discussion will continue up to 5 p.m. The Finance Minister will reply on Thursday after question Hour.

SHRI JAGAT NARAIN (Haryana): Mr. Chairman, it should be three hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It begins at five o'clock and then you will decide.

(Interruptions)

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमान्, उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के बारे में मैंने आपसे निवेदन किया था ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You discuss it with me in the Chamber.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमान्, उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के बारे में मैंने आपसे निवेदन किया था । उत्तर प्रदेश में समन्वय समिति ने श्री हस्तिनाचन्द्र सिंह को अपना नेता चुन कर के उसकी सूचना दे दी है और उसको ऐसा

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): They are trying to bypass the Constitution. This is a serious thing.

श्री राजनारायण : राज्यपाल का एक बयान आया है वनारस में कि वे समन्वय समिति द्वारा चुने हुये नेता को बुलाने नहीं जा रहे हैं । हमारी खबर है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से राज्यपाल को खबर दे दी गई है