

STAY-IN STRIKE IN THE DEFENCE  
ESTABLISHMENTS IN KANPUR

\*212. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister for DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a stay-in strike in the Defence installations located at Kanpur on the 13th June 1955;

(b) if so, what were the demands of the workers; and

(c) what action Government had taken to settle the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA):

(a) Yes. The stay-in strike was staged in three Ordnance Factories:—

(i) Harness and Saddlery Factory,

(ii) Ordnance Parachute Factory, and

(iii) Small Arms Factory, Kanpur.

(b) The workers, who struck work, demanded the release of Sarvashri S. M. Banerjee and Akbar Ali, General Secretary and President, respectively, of the Harness and Saddlery Factory Employees Union.

(c) As their arrest had nothing to do with any matter connected with any Defence installation, the strikers were advised to contact the District authorities of Kanpur.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether the stay-in strike took place as a protest against the arrest of the persons that the hon. Minister referred to?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: As I have already stated, they were arrested not because of anything to do with Defence installations, but possibly for inciting the people to strike in the Kanpur Textile Mills, or something of

that type, and as that had nothing to do with Defence, they were referred to the civil authorities.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am surprised that they were arrested on a charge of inciting the strike, because the Kanpur strike had been there for a number of days already. May I know whether it is a fact that they were arrested on certain charges unconnected with the strike. Of course there was some charge, I suppose, of incitement to continue the strike—and if so, where are they now at the moment? I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

DR. K. N. KATJU: They are very much at large now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If they are at large, have they been reinstated in their jobs?

DR. K. N. KATJU: What was the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Were they reinstated in their jobs? That is the question.

DR. K. N. KATJU: I think so—I am not sure about one or two—but the others were.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that except Mr. S. M. Banerjee, General Secretary of the All-India Defence Employees' Federation, all the other four have not still been reinstated in their jobs?

DR. K. N. KATJU: My hon. friend knows much better than I do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But I want the information. May I know whether some arrests were made also on the 14th of June, in spite of the fact that the District Magistrate had given an assurance earlier that no such persons on any such charges would be arrested?