

STATEMENT RE HUNGER STRIKE  
BY POLICEMEN IN WEST BENGAL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Sir, I have to make a further statement on the hunger strike in West Bengal. I am glad to say that the situation in West Bengal arising out of the hunger strike of certain constables has now been completely restored to normal. All constables who were on hunger strike have given up the strike and by yesterday not a single constable was fasting.

After I made my statement on the situation on the 17th when I informed the House that about 500 of the strikers had been arrested, there was a rapid and marked improvement in the general situation. The West Bengal Government warned the strikers that, if they did not report for duty immediately, strict disciplinary action would be taken against them. As a result, large numbers started giving up their fast and returning to duty. By the evening of the 18th instant out of a total of some 3,000 constables on hunger strike in 9 affected Districts all except 85 had broken their fast. By yesterday all without exception have broken their fast. All the jail warders who had gone on hunger strike have broken their fast and are performing their normal duties. The situation is peaceful throughout. The military have been completely withdrawn.

SHRI B. GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the press report which shows that about 110 people were arrested and many of them have not been released; also that the military have not yet been taken back from many places and thirdly, the demands of the strikers are not yet under proper consideration.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE (West Bengal): Just this information I would like to know, as to what has happened to the arrested policemen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right. The hon. Member wants the information later on, if you don't have it here now.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY (Orissa): Sir, I had given notice for papers regarding Manipur and.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes, we have sent it to them and we have also reminded them.

SHRI B. GUPTA: But what about the arrested policemen who have not been released? No answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes, tomorrow.

SHRI B. GUPTA: But he has gone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is going to the official gallery.

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SHRI B. N. DATAR: I shall make a statement a few minutes afterwards.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, what about the arrested persons?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will get the information. We are all concerned about it.

THE HINDU MINORITY AND  
GUARDIANSHIP BILL, 1953—  
PRESENTATION OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE REPORT.

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI H. V. PATASKAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and codify certain parts of the law relating to minority and guardianship among Hindus be instructed to report on or before the 31st March 1955".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha

[Mr. Chairman.]

that the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and codify certain parts of the law relating to minority and guardianship among Hindus be instructed to report on or before the 31st March 1955".

The motion was adopted.

### THE INDIAN TARIFF (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954—continued

MR. CHAIRMAN: We get back to the discussion on the Indian Tariff (Third Amendment) Bill, 1954. Mr. Kishen Chand.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA (Bihar): Sir, may I make a submission? The Vice-President of India has invited us to an 'At Home' this afternoon at 4-15 P.M. I submit that the House should adjourn today at 4 P.M. to enable us to attend the function in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Provided you sit in the lunch hour and do not waste time.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE (Madhya Bharat): Sir, I suggest that the adjournment should be at 3-30 P.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I leave it to the Deputy Chairman. If you work hard during the lunch hour, you may be let off at 3-30 P.M.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I was drawing the attention of the Government to the items on which the protective duty is going to be discontinued. Then I come to the cases where the duty is going to be continued. Now, in that category I find items like soda ash, calcium chloride, titanium dioxide, alloy, tool and special steels, grinding wheels and segments thereof. These are the articles which are not used directly but are used by other industries in

the production of goods and the continuance of the duty on them must be looked at from the point of view whether it is or it is not increasing the cost of production of the article in which such goods are used and whether the industries which use these goods are getting some sort of protection or not. For example, let us take soda ash. This commodity is used in the production of glass and till two years back the producers of glass were allowed a rebate of the customs duty but it has been discontinued and, therefore, the glass industry is practically paying this additional import duty and the same thing may be said about the other articles. So, I would submit to the Government that in considering the continuation of protective duty, they should take good care to see that the industries which utilise these goods are not harmed.

In a whole long list, it is very difficult to single out items and to make any remarks about them but I submit as a principle that the Government of India should ask the Planning Commission to ascertain which industries can properly flourish in our country. It is a basic question and it is not right for our country to produce each and everything in our country and to become self-sufficient. The result will be that if we do not import anything and if we go on exporting, we are really making a present to other countries. After all, import-export is a two-way traffic. You import certain things and export certain things and the cost of the two items must balance each other. I think, in the production of any article, the basic idea should be whether the raw material or the technical skill is available more cheaply in our country than in the foreign country, and whether the employment factor is big enough to satisfy us that the industry should be developed in our country.

This continuous variation of tariff without an overall picture is going to very seriously affect our industry.