

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: I would request the hon. Minister to use his good offices and urge upon the management of the P. T. I. to come forward and meet the representatives of the Federation and come to an amicable settlement. While doing this, I would also request the hon. Minister to look into another matter. The hon. Minister said that it was not possible to amend the law immediately and that we have to work under the existing law. That is true. But you might remember that when the dispute between the management and the employees of the Bharat Bank came up, certain State Governments appointed tribunals, certain other State Governments did not and there was some trouble about it. The Central Government came forward with an Ordinance to enable the appointment of a Central Tribunal to go into the dispute between the management of the banks and their employees. I ask the hon. Minister why can he not take the same stand now regard to disputes between management and the employees of a news service? The hon. Minister can come forward with an Ordinance which will empower him to refer this dispute to a Central Tribunal, an Ordinance which will also include the working journalists in the definition of workmen. It will also define the Central Government as the appropriate government to refer disputes between the managements and the employees of news services of an all-India character to a Central Tribunal. If the hon. Minister brings forward such an Ordinance, nobody in this House or in the country will ever say that he is bureaucratic, that he is taking the law in his own hands.

Certainly, everyone will support him. In the coming session of Parliament this can be incorporated in the Industrial Disputes Act and everything can be regularised. So, I request the hon. Minister to clarify the position as to whether the Government is prepared to bring forward an Ordinance to enable the Central Government to appoint a Central Tribunal.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Four hon. Members have given their names and they can put one question each.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY (Mysore): is there a limit on questions, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: "Any member who has previously intimated to the Chairman may be permitted to put a question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact".

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR (Uttar Pradesh): "A question" is not limited to one question. It means "any question."

(Interruption.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI B. RATH (Orissa): Supporters of the proposal must be persons who are interested.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They must give intimation.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: I hope then, Sir, that I will be allowed to make a very complex sentence. I do not want to waste the time of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, there are three more Members. If you want a reply from the hon. Minister you must give him time.

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I would try to reply to all the points.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You must put the question in such a way as to give opportunity to the others.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: I should like to ask, Sir, whether Government are aware that in other countries where national news agencies operate, the government takes a very active interest in the growth and the good state of that industry and, if so, in what manner Government have been giving sustenance and support to or exercising superintendence over the P. T. I.; and whether Government

are satisfied that the management of the P. T. I. is in safe hands, or whether they think it is in hands which are exploiting the P. T. I., a national organisation, for their own ends; and also whether they think that this organisation is of such vital public interest that mere legalistic and technical obstructions should not stand in the way of seeing to it that this dispute which has developed into such an acute conflict and which threatens the very life line of this industry which is essential for the whole country, is settled and that they should intervene immediately and effectively in the matter?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Alva is not here.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA (Bombay): Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have changed your seat, Madam.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Sir, I just want a clarification. I want to know whether Government is aware that after the recent change in the P. T. I. it really has no effective head? The other point is that this news-agency which is really a National news-agency is in the hands of a few men who are also interested in daily news-papers. What would be the dangers of that? I want a clarification from the Minister on these two points.

PROF. G. RANGA: Sir, in view of the fact that the hon. Minister himself has admitted that it is a public utility concerned and it is now stated by our other friends that there is no visible executive head for this very important all-India service.....

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Evil head, there is.

PROF. G. RANGA:not only at the Centre but also in the various State offices of theirs, would it not be possible for my hon. friend and also for the Government to consider this as a special case not only in their attempt to deal with it as a matter of employer and employee problem

but also as matter of public utility of a very great importance for the dissemination of news in the country and whether by way of an ordinance as has been suggested or by way of special legislation, dealing not only with the P. T. I. but other All-India News Services and news service: of other countries which are operating in this country in order to see that the public interest is safeguarded and also the interests of the employers, as also the relationship between these services and their employers are properly safeguarded?

SHRI RAMA RAO (Madras): While thanking the hon. Minister

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No speech, Mr. Rao.

SHRI RAMA RAO: While thanking him, I am trying to construct a complex and compound sentence.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have only five minutes left, Mr. Rama Rao. If you want the hon. Minister to reply.....

SHRI RAMA RAO: Up to now, no thanks have been given to the Labour Minister for what he has said. While expressing our profound thanks to the hon. the Labour Minister, with regard to the first part I would ask the following. Do the Government realize the great national danger in the P. T. I. employees not working at a certain stage out of a sense of frustration? Will Government suggest what methods the employees may adopt to persuade the employers to come to reason? In the alternative, what will they do to smash the racket that is now controlling the P. T. I.? In the opinion of the Government is the so-called administrative difficulty leading to greater centralization much more difficult to deal with than the necessity to give justice to the employees without which there may be a breakdown and Parliament may go unreported, Government may go unreported and then there might be a complete collapse of the news service of this country? Do the Government consider this a problem inasmuch as this