

SHRI T. A. PAI: I would appeal to the House not to insist on a parliamentary committee after every incident. I do hope that the normal course of law would be permitted to run itself. If we are not satisfied with that authority enforcing or doing its job properly, perhaps that would be the time when we might take it up. But if we are to abrogate to ourselves every responsibility of the various authorities, it would be ridiculous for me to suggest it at this stage and say that we shall form a committee for this purpose.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : उन की मांगें क्या हैं ?

SHRI T. A. PAI: The demand of the workers was that casual labour must be absorbed.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Tellicherry): The hon. Minister had tried to give some information about the incidents which took place which he himself had described to be very unfortunate in Sijua. But it seems that he is only trying to treat the symptoms of the disease, but the disease itself lies quite deep, which has been conveniently forgotten.

I would request the hon. Minister to recollect that when Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam was the hon. Minister looking after this portfolio, he gave an assurance in this House that the decasualisation scheme would be implemented in this sector also, that is, in the collieries. It has already been implemented in the railways, in the P & T and in Defence. Today the question has come up because of the failure of the Government in implementing the decasualisation scheme.

As was reported in the press, and as was said before, the main demand that was put forward by the workers was the confirmation of the 20,000 casual workers. The hon. Minister

has pointed out that it may be difficult for them to absorb all the 20,000 workers. Nobody would be so unreasonable as to suggest that all the 20,000 workers without any exception should be absorbed in the collieries.

But the problem is that Government do not have a scheme to absorb even a single one of them, and that has created the condition which was quite inflammable. The hon. Minister was trying to hammer into our head that the speeches were inflammatory and they created conditions for violence. But I would like to point out that there was an inflammatory condition existing in the colliery areas due to the failure of the Government in implementing their own scheme of decasualisation.

I would, therefore, like to ask the Minister whether at this stage itself, even after the martyrdom of seven or eight workers, he is ready once more to assure this House, not for assurance's sake but for implementing it immediately, that the decasualisation scheme in the collieries would be implemented.

Secondly, I would say this. The Minister was speaking more or less like a Home Minister. He spoke about the might of the police and how they would fire and how they would bring about law and order and everything. It was very good for a Home Minister, but there should be a little more sense of democracy when we are tackling such an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not put these things into his mouth. His statement is there.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I shall come to the point. I do not know why, even after repeated questions, he does not commit himself to a judicial inquiry. Was there something so rotten that he could not appoint a judicial inquiry to probe into it? Is it something we are asking as an undue favour?

Just a few days back there was a firing in Kanpur. The Chief Minister of the State, who was here sitting opposite in the last session, ordered an immediate judicial inquiry. Even when only one person was killed, the present Chief Minister ordered a judicial probe. It has happened in several cases, in Kerala, and in many other States. It is the practice now when in such questionable circumstances the police use excessive force and kill people, the sense of democracy has gone to this extent that Government climb down and order a judicial inquiry. The Minister here says that the police is making some inquiry or a Magistrate is making some inquiry. You cannot bluff this House or anybody in the country like that; none of us will be satisfied by an official inquiry in its routine bureaucratic manner conducted and thrust upon us. We will not be satisfied with that.

So my question is whether you are going to make a commitment here, whether you will at least say—of course, ultimately you will say it is with the State Government—that you are for a judicial probe into the whole happenings there.

There is going to be on the 21st—I do not know if they do not know it; if they do not know it, it is rather strange—a strike in the entire colliery areas which will be a united strike called by the AITUC, UTUC, HMS and CITU. When this strike takes place, if you go with this policeman's attitude to deal with it, I am very sure more unpleasant things will happen. Will the Minister try to call the representatives of the Unions here in Delhi and personally negotiate with them so that an early settlement can be arrived at and the strike averted and he can deal with the matter on a more sympathetic basis? The AITUC, which is one of the sponsors of the 21st strike, has wanted me to inform you it will use all its good offices to bring about an amicable settlement

and solve the problem. I would like the Minister to answer pointedly all these questions.

SHRI T. A. PAI: I thank the hon. member for the assurance that they are prepared to sort out the problems that the Unions are raising with regard to their threatened strike on the 21st. I am not aware on what issue they want to strike because the Wage Negotiations Committee which is engaged in discussions with these very Unions have put forward an interim payment of wages scheme in the coal industry to which we have agreed. If now they want to discuss something also which is beyond the Negotiations Committee, I shall certainly be willing to meet them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Their demand is only for a judicial inquiry because eight men have been killed.

MR. SPEAKER: Not without my permission; let him reply.

SHRI T. A. PAI: The hon. Member accused me by saying that I spoke like the Home Minister. I do not want to appropriate the powers of the Bihar Chief Minister and order a judicial enquiry, and it is appropriate for the Government to take whatever action they want to take. I did not say that I have ordered the police to make enquiries. Naturally, the State machinery is involved in looking into this matter, and I am sure the State Government will take appropriate action because five people have been killed, and it is not a question of my sitting in judgment as to whether they are rightly killed or not. When any citizen has been affected, it is bound to affect the entire community, and the entire community would be concerned with it. Even the sentiments expressed in this House would certainly be taken note of, but I am unable to say whether I am in a position to order the Bihar Government to have a judicial enquiry. I hope

[Shri T. A. Pai]

that they will take all these factors into consideration and take whatever action is necessary.

So far as the decasualisation of labour is concerned, the hon. Member knows that even in the steel industry, a series of discussions are being undertaken between the management and the union to categorise the various types of functions and to find out which of them are perennial and which of them are of a casual nature, so that an early decision might be arrived at on decasualising labour. I have told the same thing to the Wage Negotiating Committee and the Coal Ministry also, that they might continue these discussions to find out how many of this casual labour can be absorbed permanently. The hon. Member has already conceded that it may not be possible to take all the 20,000. So, certainly, even if a large number is left out, I hope that with the development of the coal industry we are now taking on hand, most of them would be able to find enough employment.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: What about having discussions with the representatives of the trade union before the strike commences?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I shall certainly be happy to meet the trade unions and find out what exactly the strike is about, and try to see that an agreement is reached with them.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri B. N. Reddy—absent; Shri Nawal Kishore Sinha—absent; Shri Shrikishan Modi—absent. So, the Calling Attention is over.

12.33 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY SECRETARY,
J. K. ORGANISATION

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhu Limaye had sought to raise a question

of privilege on the 5th September, 1973, against the "J. K. Organisation" in respect of a Press statement issued by the Secretary, J. K. Organisation, Kanpur and published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 1st September, 1973.

Shri Madhu Limaye, while raising the matter in the House, stated *inter alia* that he had never mentioned the "J. K. Organisation" at all in Lok Sabha but only mentioned companies belonging to the "J. K. Group". Shri Limaye had alleged that by publishing that Press statement, the J. K. Organisation had not only made a misleading statement but also cast reflections on him.

I had then said that I would first get the comments of the J. K. Organisation.

The Secretary, J. K. Organisation, Kanpur, who was accordingly asked under my direction to state what he might have to say in the matter, in his reply dated the 17th October, 1973, stated *inter alia* that he had issued the impugned Press statement on the basis of a news item published in the *National Herald*, dated the 25th August, 1973. He also stated:—

"... It now appears that the Press Note published in the *National Herald* was incorrect and misleading... Like everyone else, I assumed the news item in the *National Herald* to be correct version of what Shri Limaye had said in the House and proceeded on that basis... The Press statement was issued by me in the honest and bonafide belief, that the news item published in the *National Herald* was correct."

"In the end I would, on behalf of the J. K. Organisation again like to express regret in case any inconvenience or misunderstanding has been caused to Shri Limaye as regards this matter. I would like to