

by Mr. Wang Ping-nan, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, will be visiting India from March 7th onwards. It may be recalled that when the proposal was first referred to Government, it had already been cleared, in principle, as early as in November, 1977.

(c) All appropriate courtesies and facilities would be extended to the visiting delegation in consultation with the host organisation.

Chinese invitation to Indian Trade delegation

136. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an invitation has been received from the People's Republic of China by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to send a delegation to that country;

(b) if so, whether the invitation has been accepted; and

(c) by when the delegation is likely to visit China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) We understand that the invitation will be accepted, in principle, and mutually convenient dates will be worked out by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry with their Chinese counterparts.

Chinese invitation to Indian musicians and dancers

137. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the People's Republic of China has extended an invitation requesting Indian

classical musicians and dancers to visit that country;

(b) whether the invitation has been accepted and a tour programme drawn; and

(c) if so, by when the delegation of Indian artistes is expected to visit that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) to (c) In the course of a review of on-going exchanges and future programmes in the field of cultural exchanges, the possibility was held out of a song and dance troupe from India visiting China. Concrete details in the matter will be worked out by the concerned Departments of the Government of India and other non-official agencies to try and facilitate the visit in the course of 1978.

138. [Transferred to the 14th March, 1978.]

Prosecution against the management of IISCO

139. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 805 given in Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1977 and state:

(a) whether prosecution proceedings against the management of the Indian Iron and Steel Company and the Chasnala and Ramnagore collieries have since been filed for gross violation of the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Government directive issued in February, 1975;

(b) if so, when were the proceedings started;

(c) if the answers to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether Government are aware that refusal of the managements of these coal mines to abolish contract system in prohibited categories has created serious industrial unrest in the areas; and

(e) if so, what steps Government have taken to abolish the contract system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) to (c) Prosecution case has already been filed by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery in respect of Chasnala Colliery of Indian Iron & Steel Company in October, 1977 for employment of contract labour in the prohibited categories. Action for prosecution in respect of Ramnagore Colliery of IISCO has also been initiated by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery.

(d) and (e) The Central Industrial Relations Machinery have not received any report about any serious industrial unrest referred to in pat (d). Legal action wherever called for is being taken by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery in cases of employment of contract labour in violation of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act.

Rehabilitation of bonded labour

140. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any fresh assessment about the number of bonded labourers in the country in order to provide them with alternative sources of livelihood; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the present number of bonded labourers identified, freed and provided with alternative jobs in each State/Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Periodic reviews about the position of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated are carried out on the basis of reports received from the States/Union Territories, who are responsible for the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The latest available information about the number of bonded labourers identified, released and rehabilitated as on 30-11-1977, in each State/Union Territory is as follows:

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Total number of bonded labourers (position as on 30-11-1977)		
		Identified	Released	Rehabilitated
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41,448	1,148	1,002
2.	Bihar	2,562	2,301	613
3.	Gujarat	42	42	42
4.	Karnataka	64,042	64,042	6,876
5.	Orissa	614	313	303
6.	Madhya Pradesh	1,612	1,506	32
7.	Kerala	900	900	186
8.	Rajasthan	6,000	5,580	2,196
9.	Tamil Nadu	2,882	2,182	2,363
10.	Uttar Pradesh	19,242	19,242	12,805
11.	Mizoram	3	3	..
TOTAL		1,02,047	1,00,959	28,719