

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Abolition of Bonded Labour

*688. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 369 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1977 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek assistance from voluntary organisations in order to abolish bonded labour in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 already provides for the association *inter-alia* of public men and agencies with the Vigilance Committees to be set up under the Act to advise the State authorities on matters relating to the enforcement of the provisions of the Act. Government would welcome cooperation of voluntary organisations in the identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labour

*689. [Transferred to the 22nd December, 1977.]

Abolition of Contract Labour System from Public Sector Units

*690. SHRI N. K. BHATT:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:
SHRI DEVENDRA NATH
DWIVEDI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that contract labour system is still prevalent,

particularly in a number of the public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

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

Statement

Abolition of contract labour system from public sector units

There is no legal bar to the engagement of contract labour in industries and employments where employment of such labour has not been prohibited. So far as industries/industrial units in the Central Sphere are concerned, employment of contract labour has been prohibited in the coal mining industry in (a) Raising or raising-cum-settling of coal, (b) Coal loading and un-loading (c) Overburden removal and earth-cutting, (d) Soft coke manufacturing and (e) Driving of Stone-drifts and miscellaneous stone-cutting underground, vide Govt. Notification dated February 1, 1975. Employment of contract labour has also been prohibited on and from March 1, 1977 for sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings owned or occupied by establishments in respect of which the appropriate Government under the Contract Labour Act is the Central Government. Specific cases of employment of contract labour in the prohibited categories of jobs in the Central Sphere in violation of the law are being enquired into by the Central Industrial Relations Machinery, and further action taken by the Machinery as considered necessary in terms of the law. As for further areas in the Central Sphere where employment of contract labour is proposed to be prohibited, Committees set up by the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board have gone into or are currently going into the question of contract labour system in

several other industries in the Central Sphere, such as : (i) limestone, Dolomite and Manganese mines (ii) Coal and Ash handling work in Railway Loco sheds (iii) Iron Ore Mines (iv) Coal washeries and (v) chromite, mica, magnesite, Gypsum, fire-clay etc. mines. Further action regarding abolition of contract labour system in these industries/sectors is to be taken in the light of the recommendations of the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board following consideration by the Board of the Reports of the above Committees.

Restarting of Mini Steel Plants in Gujarat

1203. SHRI ISRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies which have put up their demand before the Registrar of the Gujarat High Court to restart the mini steel plants which are lying closed;

(b) whether the dues of the workers of these plants have been paid; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Requirement of Hindi Typewriters

1204. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindi typewriters at present in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Labour;

(b) the number of Hindi typewriters required in the Department/Ministry; and

(c) by when the required number of Hindi typewriters are likely to be

procured for use in the Department/Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) (i) Department of Parliamentary Affairs—4; (ii) Ministry of Labour—34.

(b) (i) Department of Parliamentary Affairs—6; (ii) Ministry of Labour—36; and

(c) (i) Department of Parliamentary Affairs—Arrangements are being made to purchase remaining two typewriters.

(ii) Ministry of Labour—Two typewriters are likely to be procured for use in the Ministry of Labour by January, 1978.

Pin Code System

1205. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of the Pin Code System has improved the efficiency of the Postal Department; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for introducing the Pin Code System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Residential accommodation for Postmen at Poona

1206. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rent charged for residential accommodation constructed by the Postal Department for postmen in Poona is much higher than the house rent allowance paid to them; and