

amounting to Rs. 37.5 lakhs. The State Industrial Relations Machinery have filed cases against M/S Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur, for non-payment of wages another allied matters. It is understood that the Government of U.P. have also decided to advance a loan of Rs. 37.50 lakhs to the management to clear the outstanding wage dues for the second fortnight of October and the two fortnights of November, 1977.

**India's desire to have talk with China on outstanding issues**

\*685. SHRI S. KUMARAN: SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND; SHRI F. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have conveyed their desire to the Government of Peoples Republic of China that they would be willing to discuss the outstanding issues between the two countries, if the latter takes initiative in the matter; and

(b) ii so, what are the details in this regard and what is China's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) and (b) Government of India have publicly stated that any suggestions for improvement of bilateral relations with China would be given serious consideration in keeping with the Five Principles including the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity.

No proposals have been made directly to the Government of India by the Chinese Government for holding discussions on outstanding issues.

**Setting up of a Vigilance Cell to Check Tapping of Telephones**

\*686. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Master of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's considerations to set up a Vigilance Cell with a view to probing into the incidents of tapping of telephones; and

Ob) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b). Vigilance Cells function in the P&T Department in the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs and other subordinate field offices, to deal with grievances brought by members of the public. They look into complaints brought to their notice including corruption and malpractices. They are not set up to probe into incidents of tapping of telephones.

The P&T Department does not, of its own volition, resort to tapping of telephones. This is governed by Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, according to which, in certain circumstances, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer, duly authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government, may order tapping of telephone lines. Such an order is communicated to the P&T Department for providing necessary facilities. The tapping of telephones under the aforesaid Act falls within the domain of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Diplomatic ties with Guinea Bissau**

\*687. SHRI HARSH DEO MALA VIYA: SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has established diplomatic relations with Guinea-Bissau; and

(b) if not, by when the Government of India is likely to establish diplomatic relations with that country? ]

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

Ob) 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

Ob) 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 rais-ing-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