

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