

unions are unions that cover all sections of the employees. It is also true that the category-wise unions do not have any formal recognition while some of the unions have formal recognition. In so far as the situation in the last two years is concerned, I thought the hon. Member was aware as to why in the last two years the demands and grievances of the workers were not settled. This is a question which should not be put to me, because what happened in the last two years is something which is very well-known. Why the demands... (Interruptions). Obviously, the managements were under the directions of the Government. They were operating under the directions of the Government and the Government's directions were such that a lot of problems could not be settled. That is why we are today having industrial unrest throughout the country which we are trying to meet, which we are trying to resolve.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expenditure incurred by the political parties in elections

*308. SHRI C. P. MAJHI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister made a statement at Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu on the 18th May, 1977 to the effect that according to the new electoral system which is under Government's consideration expenditure incurred by the political parties and the candidates on elections would be paid by Government; and

(b) if so, by when this system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN) (a) The

Prime Minister's statement referred to herein was only with regard to a proposal for the financing of candidates by the Government in respect of expenses incurred by them at the elections, and not in respect of financing of expenditure incurred by the political parties on the elections.

(b) The proposal will be examined along with other proposals for amendment of the election law which are currently under examination. It is not possible to say when a decision will be taken in the matter.

Legislation regarding liability of the State in Tort

*310. SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court of India and the various High Courts in their Judgments and observations as well as the Law Commission of India in one of their reports have strongly stressed the need for legislation regarding liability of the State in Tort on lines similar to other countries including the United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether Government propose to bring forward a bill before the Parliament in this regard; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration with reference to the earlier Bills on the subject which have lapsed and the subsequent decisions of Courts.

Conversion of Ranchi-Lohardaga Railway Line

*311. SHRI BHAIYA RAM MUNDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Un-