

Amendment of Industrial Disputes Act

1102. SHRI P. N. BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical and sales representatives working in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries in India have not been brought under the definition of 'Workmen' in the Industrial Dispute? Act, 1947;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have received any memorandum from the medical and sales representatives to amend Sec. 2(S) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL-GOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has held that medical representatives and persons engaged primarily in sales promotion are not covered by the definition of 'Workman' in the Industrial Disputes Act.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is being considered in the context of the proposed comprehensive bill on Industrial Relations.

Maternity leave benefits to the female workers of medical and pharmaceutical industries

1103. SHRI P. N. BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that female workers in the medical and pharmaceutical industries are not given the benefits of maternity leave for three months as they do not fall under the scope of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to bring an amendment to the relevant section of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for extending the benefit to the female workers of pharmaceutical industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL-GOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c) The grant of maternity benefits to women industrial workers is governed by the provisions in the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 or the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, as the case may be, and not by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The maximum period of benefits under the Maternity Benefit Act, as also the Employees State Insurance Act, is 12 weeks.

Women employees in chemical and pharmaceutical industries, which are covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, and in receipt of wages exceeding Rs. 500/- per month are, however, not entitled to any maternity benefit, as the coverage under the Act is restricted to those drawing wages not exceeding Rs. 500/- per month. It is proposed to amend the Act, with a view to raising the wage limit for coverage under the Act suitably.

NATO naval exercise in the Indian Ocean

1104. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries are planning to conduct naval exercises in the northern part of Indian Ocean in the near future;

(b) whether Pakistan was likely to participate in the exercises;

(c) what action the littoral countries propose to take against the conduct of such exercises;

(d) whether the maritime military exercises have already been held in this regard in the Indian Ocean; -

(e) if so, what are the details of these exercises;

(f) whether Pakistan Navy is host for the exercise called "Midlight 1974"; and

(g) whether these exercises conducted under the auspices of the Central Treaty Organisation also?