

are working as labourers under uncongenial conditions; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) The question presumably refers to the I.L.O. Report IV (1) on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment discussed in June, 1972 at the 57th Session of the International Labour Conference, which inter-alia, states that "The sector in which bulk of the working children in every region are employed is, of course, agriculture. In India, for example, out of some 14.5 million children under the age of 15 who were considered economically active in 1961, about 10.5 million were engaged in agriculture." All these children, although considered as economically active, are not employed as labourers. As bulk of these children are engaged on agriculture, question of their working under uncongenial conditions does not arise.

INDIANS IN SRILANKA

805. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether workers of Indian origin in Sri Lanka staged a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike in protest against suppression and restriction on democratic rights and civil liberties by the Government of Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, what assistance Government of India gave to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Workers belonging to a number of trade union organisations in Sri Lanka, including some persons of Indian origin, went on a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike on 18th October, 1972, to protest against the alleged suppression and restriction of democratic rights and liberties by the Government of Sri Lanka.

(b) The matter being within the domestic jurisdiction of the Government of Sri Lanka, the question of Government of India extending any help does not arise.

MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER FOR BONUS

806. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND RE-

HABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any delegation of Central Government employees' organisations met the Prime Minister recently to stress the need of bringing them also under the purview of the statutory minimum bonus; and

(b) if so, what is the attitude of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, The delegation presented a memorandum which raised the question of payment of bonus to the departmental industrial employees. «

(b) Government have decided that the existing position under the Payment of Bonus Act should, for the present be maintained.

SEVEN DAY WEEK

807. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of 'Seven-day week' scheme announced by him; and

(b) what are the reactions of the various labour organisations in the country to the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) The idea of a seven-day week is that, subject to the exigencies of supply of power, raw materials, etc., the plants and machinery of an industrial unit should, wherever possible, be worked continuously throughout the week, with the industrial workers' weekly day of rest being appropriately staggered. Government have not yet worked out the precise details of such a scheme. Though the Employers' Organisations and the Central Trade Union Organisations have not been formally addressed on the subject, generally speaking, the employers, the trade union leaders of all persuasions and the State Labour Ministers are not averse to the proposal and the response is encouraging.

PRODUCTION OF LIGHT WEIGHT HELICOPTER

808. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of light weight multipole helicopter has been started in Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore; and