

and did not have the rank of even an Ambassador. I would like to remind the hon. Member—he is a great man, a big man—that even Joint Secretaries are very high officers in all Ministries. They are of the rank of Commissioner, and there is no use belittling these things...

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't interrupt... *(Interruptions)*... Let him finish. I won't allow any interruptions like this. Yes, please.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We can do shouting as the hon. Member also does at times. But there is no result of shouting...

MR. CHAIRMAN: First the answer must be complete...

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: It is unfair on the part of Minister...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the answer be complete...

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: It is unfair...

SHRI C. D. PANDE: It is not dignified...

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Shouting is very much parliamentary and I stick to it. I think the hon. Member would try to understand me. I said that we can also do shouting in the international community just as the hon. Member is shouting. But just as his shouting does not produce any result, so our shouting also would not have produced any result. We should deal with these matters with the seriousness that they require. And the hon. Member still has a hang over of the British period in handling these matters. I would like to say that the British in this case were good because they had squarely taken the responsibility of taking British passport holders. Therefore, I have acknowledged publicly, and I would like to repeat, that they did their duty properly. But in the context of raising it formally in the United Nations or raising it in any other international forum, both the British and we did realise that we cannot achieve much. We can raise this matter with a view to involving some of the international community members and we did succeed in getting the Secretary-General interested in this problem and I have said already that certain assurance had been given

by President Amin to Secretary-General. So, we also have taken it up both bilaterally and also in the international community. And I normally do not give out secrets, but even Mr. Pande is reported to have said that he also thought that nothing more can be done but "as members of the Opposition we have to criticize".

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

*241. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:
DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: †

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation to ban strikes and lockouts in public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the employees of the undertakings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: The Government must set an example in the matter of good administration, greater production and industrial peace and progress in the public sector undertakings. But the position is quite the reverse. The number of man days lost, decline in production, industrial unrest and also I must say, indiscipline and violence because of frequent strikes in this sector as well as in other sectors in public life have shaken the very foundation of our democracy. So, Sir, will the Government seriously consider about bringing forward a legislation to ban strikes and lockouts and at the same time, provide adequate safeguards to protect the interests of labour?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Sir, as the hon. Member knows, we do not discriminate or the Government does not discriminate between public and private sector undertakings. Therefore, the question of bringing forward any sort of legislation to ban the strikes in public sector does not arise.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: Sir, the Minister has avoided the question altogether.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. K. Nagappa Alva.

He can at least say that if the Government finds it necessary in public sector undertakings, it will be done. Sir, now I may just suggest to the Government that they may make a study as to how strikes and lockouts are avoided in two countries, Yugoslavia and Sweden. Sir, will the Government consider a moratorium on strikes and lockouts for a period of 3 years which will greatly help to stop the price rise and the 'garibi hatao' programme of this Government?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : Sir, there is no provision in the Industrial Disputes Act to resort to strikes and lockouts, but still there is no ban. The Government of India is trying its level best to create conditions in which these lockouts and strikes will become redundant and as such efforts are being made in that direction. Very soon, we are bringing forward a comprehensive legislation on industrial relations. Therefore, the question of a complete ban on strikes does not arise. I think the conditions will become such that the strikes and lockouts will become redundant.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA : I find from the reply of the Minister that he thinks that it is not desirable to bring forward a legislation which will ban strikes and lockouts, I know it is a difficult thing to do. But I would like to know from the Minister what other alternative measures he is thinking to do away with this industrial unrest, particularly in the public sector industries where generally a clamour is made for nationalisation. But there is no commitment for it from anybody and strikes are the main cause and reason for the fall in production.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA : I will put it. I should give a background to my question, I want to know from the Minister whether he would consider a proper criterion for recognition of trade unions based on, say, secret ballot and proportionate representation of the Unions because it has been found in practice that it is not possible to have a criterion for recognising the majority union.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : We have said it many a time over here that the Government of India is trying its best to see that the trade union rivalry is ended at the earliest and with that end in view, we requested the Central Trade Union Organisations to devise

ways and means and to tell us as to what criterion should be adopted in matters of recognition of trade unions and such allied matters. The Central Trade Union Organisations met and discussed the matter at various levels and they have come to some limited accord. On the basis of the discussions..

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : He is not making a correct statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, yes, let him finish his answer.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : By Central Trade Union Organisations, I mean the organisations which are recognised.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : What is this? He is not making a correct statement. I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will seek my protection at the proper time.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : By Central Trade Union Organisations, I mean organisations which are recognised just like INTUC, AITUC, HMS. On the basis of the discussions which the Government held with them and the employers representatives and the limited accord and the decision that has been arrived at, we are thinking of bringing forward a new legislation.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, on a point of order. I would like to know whether the Minister is entitled to make a statement which is untrue. There is also a recognised Union, which is called the UTUC. He has carefully avoided mentioning that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. There is no point of order. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : What is this, Sir? How can he mislead the House? Can he mislead the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, please sit down. What is the point of order? Yes, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is the hon. Minister aware that in the HMT of Bangalore, for example, the management is favouring and encouraging to split up the trade union activity by helping the INTUC and that the result of this has been that on the encouragement from the management some INTUC persons were taken there to attack the workers of the State Karnatak Pradesh Trade Union—

the Karmik Sangh as they call it, and a leading member of our Party. Mr. Krishnan MLA, who is also a trade union leader, was seriously assaulted? Following that incident there has been a lockout also. I should like to know what steps the Government is going to take to prevent the management from inciting such a company of the Union to attack the trade union leaders. One of our leading party members, Mr. M. S. Krishnan, who is a trade unionist, was seriously assaulted by them and 30 other people were injured.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : Sir, it has come to our notice that there has been some unrest at the HMT Bangalore but, as the hon. Member knows, industrial relations in the HMT falls within the State sphere and, therefore, the Central Government cannot do anything in the matter. We also have come to know that the State Government is taking proper action...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, on a point of order. The Central Government can take...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. Let him complete the answer and then if there is anything left.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : The State Government is taking keen interest over there and they are trying to see that these incidents do not recur. They are doing what they can. We are receiving communications from them every now and then and I think things are going on well now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What is this, Sir? This is no reply. The Central Government could take action...

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is it that has not been answered?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, you have not got it yet. My point is what steps he has taken to prevent the management of the HMT from encouraging the hooligans and goondas to attack such well-known leaders like Mr. M. S. Krishnan MLA and also attack the trade union leaders of the Karmik Sangh and so on. What steps have been taken to prevent...

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : Sir, the State Government is taking necessary precautions. Police has been posted there and they are looking after it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is it the answer?

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA : That is also because of the trouble of the recognition of the Trade Union.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact or not that it is the Communist Party of India which has got a hold on the Indian trade union movement, has disrupted the peaceful method of working of the public sector and private sector industry in this country?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. How will he answer about the trade union movement here?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What have you to say, Mr. Minister?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The hon. Member has disrupted the Congress organisation.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, please sit down. I am not allowing any further questions.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : It is your AITUC which is responsible for all the trouble in HMT.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : It is your AITUC which is attacking people there. You are wrongly putting up the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am asking you to sit down. You should look at the Chair, and not start talking direct.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Please apply the same yardstick to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta also, not to me and others alone.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : It has come to our notice that in certain undertakings the AITUC people particularly have tried to create disturbances. This is a fact.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are maintaining your tradition. You are attacking your INTUC. Even in Bangalore...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Please sit down.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know whether the Government is aware that the permissive atmosphere at present regarding strikes, lockouts etc...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the last question.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : I raised my hands in the very beginning

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, I will give you a chance.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Is the Minister aware that in view of the economic deterioration it is most necessary to ban strikes and lock-outs ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Who is responsible for it ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : You are the man responsible for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't talk with each other.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : How does he say....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't interrupt, otherwise I won't call you.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Minister in view of the economic deterioration is it not possible to persuade the labour unions to sink their differences because by giving bonus you also expect production to go up ? Also are you aware that Mr. Mohan Dharia, a Member of the Cabinet, has stated in Poona that there should be a ban on strikes and lock-outs for the coming ten years ? Do you support that contention ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Now that Mr. Mohan Dharia is a Minister he is improving his ideology.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : In the present state of our economy we all wish that lock-outs and strikes should not be resorted to. This is our intention and with that end in view we are trying our level best we have asked the trade union leaders to see that there is utmost production.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Asked or requested ?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : We have requested the trade union leaders to see that there are no strikes and lock-outs at least in the coming years.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Have you seen to it that at least the need-based minimum wage is given ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not have to answer him.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : In the new legislation we are bringing forward, we are putting certain restraints so that the strikes and lock-outs become a little difficult.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I asked him whether he is aware of a statement made by Mr. Mohan Dharia in Poona about strikes and lock-outs.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : I welcome that.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Let him be very explicit and say whether they are banning strikes and lock-outs.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I want to know what the reaction of the Government is to the statement made by a Minister of the Government of India, Mr. Mohan Dharia.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you have put that question

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What is his reply ? What is his reaction ?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : We have seen the statement of Mr. Mohan Dharia and I think any responsible person not only in the Ministry but outside also and who has got the interest of the country at heart, will support him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the last question.

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : My question is whether the Labour Ministry has had any discussion with the so-called recognised central trade unions, viz., INTUC, AITUC and HMS, regarding the proposal for banning strikes in the public sector in the name of restricting any strike in the public sector and, if so, what was the reaction of each of these central trade unions to it ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, kindly listen to the answer.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : It had been expressed by all the trade union leaders that there was need to revive the labour conciliation machinery and for that purpose we convened a meeting of the trade union leaders and also the employers. Later on, the Labour Minister requested these trade union leaders to form themselves into a group and discuss

among themselves the measures to be taken for the recognition of trade unions, and what should be the method for going on strikes and declaring lockouts. The three trade union leaders discussed these matters. Although there were divergent views, they reached some sort of a limited accord. In those discussions we have come to know that the INTUC leaders preferred that there should be no strike at least in essential industries, although they thought that the list of essential industries must be a limited one. But the AITUC and HMS did not agree with the INTUC leaders. The INTUC also preferred that, even in respect of non-essential industries, there are certain sections where strikes should not be resorted to and their working should be continued. The AITUC and HMS leaders desired that only through collective bargaining they should decide upon the sections where the strikes and lockouts should not be resorted to.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : There are other trade union leaders.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question, Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The hon. Minister has made a statement on which the President of INTUC here wants to make a clarification. He is rising up and you should call him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is it permissible ? The hon. Minister is suppressing facts. He knows the position. The HMT Manager is not even talking to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

PROBLEMS OF INDIANS OVERSEAS

*242. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : †
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA :
SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH
MUSAFIR :
SHRI V. B. RAJU :
SHRI J. S. TILAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

(a) whether Government are in touch with the problems of overseas Indians ;

(b) if so, what are these problems, country-wise ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to solve them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government of India keep in touch with the problems of Indian nationals and people of Indian origin abroad. Government provide normal consular protection to Indian nationals settled overseas.

The problems of overseas Indians vary from country to country. Their principal problems concern the pursuit of their vocations. The Government of India render such help to them as enables them to pursue their vocations, in accordance with local laws.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : That is all right, but I wanted him to give the position country-wise. In part (b) I have asked : "if so, what are these problems, country-wise ; and (c) what steps are being taken to solve them ?" Uganda came up. Now, Kenya may be coming up. We had earlier Ceylon and Burma. What I wanted was a catalogue of all these things and the hon. Minister has given a complete sweep of the whole thing. I do not know how he can give that. The hon. Minister of External Affairs, Sardar Swaran Singh, said that we should not put emphasis on what is happening in Kenya. It may be that Kenya is a friendly country, but may I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn particularly to the statement of a Kenyan Minister regarding the problems of Kenya, Kenyan Indians and Kenyan Asians and, if so, whether the Government of India is in touch with the Government of Kenya particularly on this subject and what explanation has been given by them ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I do accept that the reply is not sufficiently indicative of the conditions in each country. And from the very nature of the question asked, it was not easy to do so. I myself went into it with a great deal of care because persons of Indian origin are today present in large numbers of countries ; they are present, for example, in the United States of America, about a hundred thousand also in the United Kingdom, in Canada, in several west European countries, in several Asian countries, in several