

Ministry, had met the delegation and had talks with them on matters of mutual interests. It is not customary for Government to disclose details of such discussions which are necessarily of a confidential nature.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : May I know whether it is a fact that President Podgorny stayed for 12 to 14 hours instead of 4 hours as scheduled before, under the plea that there was bad weather, although all other planes were working in Calcutta and whether he left a contingent of officers while going to Hanoi who returned to Soviet Russia while he returned back ? And may I know discussions were made with the delegation in respect of the Simla conference which was just prior to the Summit Conference ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I would appeal to the hon'ble Member not to introduce insinuating nature of suspicion while dealing with the head of State of a friendly country.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : No.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Have the patience to listen now. So far as President Podgorny is concerned, he is the head of the Government of the U.S.S.R. and he is most welcome to stay here. He need not invent an excuse to stay here if he wants to stay. Unfortunately, the hon'ble Member is aware of the weather only in Calcutta. But it should be remembered that he was to go to Hanoi. After the plane landed information was received from Hanoi that he will not be able to land if he were to continue the journey. Therefore, he had to postpone his departure and stayed on for the night, a most welcome stay even if he was stranded. We availed of this opportunity of exchanging views with the topmost Soviet leader. It is an opportunity which we availed of I must add we had talks on wide-ranging subjects

of international importance. Also we reviewed our bilateral relations. Neither India nor the U. S. S. R. need put forward any excuse of weather or anything else to have talks. We visit Moscow so often and their leaders come to India. We have a treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation, and it is in the tradition of our good bilateral relations that we always avail the opportunity of having discussions with the Soviet leaders. This has nothing to do with the Simla Summit talks which was not even mentioned in the course of our discussion so far as I remember.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

STRIKE BY CASHEW WORKERS IN KERALA

*389. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : Will the Minister of LAEOLR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cashew workers in Kerala went on strike from 15th June ;

(b) if, so, what were their demands, and

(c) whether Government have intervened in the matter to settle the dispute ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c) : The matter falls in the State sphere. According to available information, the strike was called off and normal work resumed from July 1, 1972 following a settlement between the parties brought about by the State Industrial Relations Commission.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : Sir, are the Government aware that this problem is created because the S.T. have been giving raw nuts to factories which are

not licensed and to cottage industries so that the functioning factories do not get sufficient raw nuts? Will the Government see to it that only organised factories get raw nuts because it is the Central Government the S.T.C which supplies almost half of the nuts and the problem is created because of the refusal of the Central Government to see that organised workers employing thousands of women are not allowed to function. Will the Government see to it that the S.T.C. supplies to factories which are running and not to cottage units which are functioning there only to smash up these factories ?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : Sir, actually this question has been rather wrongly directed towards us. We are not at all concerned with the distribution of raw cashew nuts. This is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Therefore, this question should be directed towards them. We know that the Ministry of Foreign Trade have made some arrangements for the supply of cashew nuts to factories.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : I was pointing out that this unrest is only because of the difficulties of the organised factories not getting raw nuts. The old exporters are trying to have the raw nute processed through the cottage industries which is creating a problem. Therefore may I know whether the Government in the interest of employment for women— it is a question of employment also—see to it that the organised factories get the nuts and the disorganised, unorganised industries are not allowed to smash up the organised industries which employ so many women ?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : Sir, raw cashew nuts are supplied by the Ministry of Foreign Trade through the State Government and we have come to know

that the State Government has taken the responsibility to arrange the supply of raw cashew nuts only to those factories which paid the notified rates of minimum wages. And nothing else we can say regarding that. We are concerned about the employment of women and I think the Foreign Trade Ministry is seized of it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

*390. [The questioner Shri Om Parkash Tyagi was absent. For answer vide col. 35 J infra.]

आपात काल में घायल हुए मजदूरों को क्षतिपूर्ति

*391. श्री सुरज प्रसाद : क्या श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्रों यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने आपात काल में कारखानों, खानों, बागानों और प्रमुख बन्दरगाहों में आवश्यक सेवाओं में काम करने समय घायल हुए श्रमिकों को क्षतिपूर्ति देने की कोई योजना बनायी है :

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह योजना कब तक कार्यान्वित की जायेगी; और

(ग) इस योजना द्वारा कितने व्यक्तियों को लाभ पहुंचने की संभावना है ?

COMPENSATION TO WORKERS INJURED DURING THE EMERGENCY

*391. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a scheme to give compensation to the workers injured while rendering essential services in factories mines, plantations and major ports during the emergency;

(b) if so, by when the scheme will be implemented; and