

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Government of Rajasthan.

U. K. REQUEST TO INDIA ON VIETNAM AFFAIR

713. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether U. K. Government have requested the Government of India to use its influence to bring about substantive negotiations on Vietnam issue following blockading of North Vietnam's ports by the U. S. A.; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The British Government had suggested that India could also help in bringing about a Geneva-type conference on Vietnam by suitably advising the Soviet Union.

(b) The Government of India feels that fighting must first stop in Vietnam before any proposal for settlement by peaceful means stands any chance of being acceptable.

714. [Transferred to the 25th May, 1972]

STRIKES/LOCK-OUTS IN PUBLIC SECTOR FACTORIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS

715. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of factories and establishments in the public sector where there were strikes/lock-outs during 1971-72 ;

(b) the total number of employees/workers affected by the said strikes/lock-outs ; and

(c) the specific measures adopted to see that lock-outs/strikes are checked in the interest of country's economy ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) According to available provisional information, the number of industrial establishments in the public sector affected by strikes and lock-outs during 1971

was 418 and the number of workers involved in these strikes and lock-outs was 2,80,457.

(c) The Industrial Relations Machinery continues to make efforts to minimise work-stoppages through preliminary discussions, conciliation and adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory machinery and voluntary arrangements. Government have also been holding discussions with the interests concerned, including the Workers' and Employers' Organisations, to evolve agreed measures to secure improvements in the industrial relations system.

†CULTURAL CENTRES ABROAD

599. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Cultural Relations propose to open new cultural central centres abroad with a view to creating awareness of India's cultural heritage ; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the steps taken in that direction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Indian Cultural Centre has already been set up at Suva in (Fiji) and during the current financial year (1972-73) the I. C. C. R. proposes to set up Indian Cultural Centres in Georgetown (Guyana), San Francisco (USA), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and Lima (Peru). Each of these Centres will be under an Indian Director to be assisted by teachers who will teach and lecture on Indian dancing, music, fine arts, language etc. Each Centre will have a library of books, films, slides, records and tapes and a reading room and will organise film shows, lectures, exhibitions and the like for projecting Indian culture. These Cultural Centres will work under the over-all guidance of our Heads of Mission.

The Director and three Teachers for the Indian Cultural Centre in Suva (Fiji) have already been appointed and have joined their duties. The appointment of the Director of the Indian Cultural Centre in San Francisco and the Director and teachers for the Indian Cultural Centre in Georgetown (Guyana) is being finalised.

†Transferred from the 24th May, 1972.