

THE MINUTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GUJARILAL NANDA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The special consideration in this case was that of encouraging a Cooperative Society of actual workers which was struggling for survival particularly when the rates quoted by it were the lowest. The only violation of the terms and conditions of tender was the acceptance of lump-sum monthly rates instead of piece rates for individual items of work which has been held to be a technical irregularity only.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The complaints are under investigation,

#### POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

547. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULY: SHRI NIREN GHOSH : DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAM :  
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Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the suggestion made by the Chief Justice of India for restricting the number of political parties in India to six

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b) While dealing with democratic and parliamentary forms of Government in his Convocation Address at the 19th Annual Convocation of the Gujarat University the Hon'ble Chief Justice made the following observations :—

"Parliamentary Government no doubt gives birth to parties; but the recognition of a party as such should be after the party satisfies a very high support in a legislature. I think we can do with half a dozen parties but no more, although nothing would be better than to have two parties. No more than six should be recognised. Therefore, before a party is recognised as such, it must command at least one-sixth

of the total strength of the house. Otherwise such members should be treated as independent members and their label must not be recognised. This will immediately reduce the number of the parties to six and in some places even less. Outside legislature they may call themselves what they like, but that name should not be allowed to creep into the legislative proceedings nor should any leader be recognised as a leader of such a party."

(c) Government have not come to any decision. Unless political parties in India evolve a consensus on the subject, it may not be possible for Government to take any steps in the direction suggested.

#### STRIKE BY WORKERS IN HEAVY ELECTRICALS LTD., BHOPAL

548. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of the Heavy Electricals Project near Bhopal went on a 24-hour token strike on August 9, 1970 demanding implementation of the Engineering Wage Board's recommendations and seeking other service amenities ;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to meet the demands of the workers ; and

(c) if no steps have so far been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Engineering Industries has been implemented through an agreement with the representative union on 26th June, 1970. Other legitimate demands have also been settled by agreement with the representative union.

(c) Does not arise.