

to bring about negotiations between Government and Mizo hostiles; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) There have been some reports to this effect.

(b) Government's reaction is wholly unfavourable.

SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM: Is the Government aware that such moves by the local Mizo leaders of the Christian Church, whenever they take place, will be inspired not by the objective of peace as such but by the objective of preventing one section of Mizos fighting another section of Mizos as had happened in the case of the Nagas, a section of whom was supporting the Government in its action against the hostiles?

SHRI V. C. SHUKLA: Sir, the present reports are that some Church leaders wanted to moot this proposal but this proposal has not yet been formally made to the Government. When it is made to the Government, we have already indicated our reaction that we are not disposed favourably towards this proposal at all but if the proposal is made then we shall see what the nature of the proposal is. \$

SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM: Is the Government aware, as known from the experience they had with the Nagas, that talks with hostiles except under certain helpful military situations only give time and opportunity to the hostiles to strengthen themselves both in regard to fighting capacity and winning and influencing local public opinion in support of their cause when they resume hostilities and therefore the hostiles carry on talks consciously for the purpose of gaining this advantage?

SHRI V.C. SHUKLA: Yes. Sir; we realise it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, the hon. Minister has given a dictory reply. In one breath he says that the Government is wholly unfavourable to such a proposal and in another breath he says that if such a proposal is made, the Government will consider the nature of the proposal. Why can't the Government say

that no such proposal will be entertained at all?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I think there is some misunderstanding about the reply given by my colleague. There is no question at all of giving any consideration to such a proposal; no question.

*57. [The questioners (Sarvashri V. M. Chordia and Ram Sahai) were absent. For answer vide cols. 374-375 infra.]

JOB SECURITY IN PRIVATE OIL INDUSTRY

f SHRI ATAL BIHARI

•58. ^ VAJPAYEE:!

I SHRI P. K. KUMARAN:

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

(a) whether the Tripartite Committee set up by Government to look into the question of job security in the private oil industry, has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the Committee and what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the recommendations of the Committee is placed on the Table of the House.

The report is under the examination of the Government

STATEMENT

Tripartite Committee on Job security in Petroleum Oil Companies

The recommendations of the Committee are:—

(1) The Early Voluntary Retirement/ Separation Schemes as operative at present should be discontinued. Instead, two joint Committees consisting of the management and representatives of managerial/supervisory staff in one case and, in the other, representatives of unions of the remaining employees, may be set up in all the three companies to coisicler and decide all applications for early retirement. This will eliminate the possibility of the

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

charge of coercion and will ensure that all categories of staff/employees genuinely wanting to retire early are not prevented from doing so.

(2) (a) Proper assessment of the existing surplus personnel and the departments or sections in which they are should be made in consultation with the unions/representatives of managerial staff, as the case may be, before further measures of rationalisation/mechanisation are introduced.

(b) The methods of reduction/redeployment of surplus labour resulting from rationalisation/mechanisation should be discussed/settled with unions/representatives of managerial staff.

(c) The companies may consider the possibility of absorbing surplus labour by employing them in the new depots to be opened by them.

(d) In case retrenchment becomes unavoidable, the procedure laid down in the Industrial Disputes Act should be followed.

(3) The procedure as laid down in (2) above, should be followed to determine and deal with future surpluses.

(4) Fresh recruitment obviously cannot go on in the departments/sections which suffer from surpluses, except for overwhelming reasons which should invariably be made known to the staff concerned.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: May I know whether it is a fact that the foreign oil companies are trying to retrench workers in large numbers on the plea that they want to take recourse to mechanisation or rationalisation and if so, whether Government's categorical assurance given by Mr. D. Sanjivayya when he was the Labour Minister that Government will ensure 'no existing worker'—I am quoting his words—'is either retrenched or loses his job' stands.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, the hon. Member knows that these companies have been trying to induce people to leave the service on what they call voluntary retirement. A Committee was appointed to look into this matter and the Committee has found that there is no justification whatsoever for carrying out any retrenchment.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Is the hon. Minister aware that some forty

employees who are working in a New Delhi office of a foreign oil company have been segregated and rendered idle? They are not doing any work. They are being paid but they are mentally tortured. It is not a question of voluntary retirement; the companies are adopting all sorts of means to get rid of the workers. May I know whether the Government intends to intervene in this matter?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, the Committee has submitted its Report. The companies have been requested—in fact, they have been asked—not to enforce this until the Government has arrived at a definite decision. Certain recommendations have been made: if there is any retrenchment to be done, it must be done by a regularly constituted Committee which represents the management and labour and it is only that Committee that must decide and not the management. These are some of the recommendations and we hope to arrive at a definite decision very soon.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: The recommendations of the Committee seem to be recommendations which are applicable to advanced countries. Here it is a question of introducing automation. The rent for each machine is Rs. 14 lakhs or so every year. Now after introducing this automation, these companies have introduced an idle pool. In Delhi, in Connaught Place 41 clerks are idling away their time. A separate room is given to them where they can play carrom or play cards or do some such things. In fact, they are being morally destroyed. Automation, after the work is over, has to result in advantages to the workers. Here 41 people have been rendered idle while others are to work overtime. This has got to be stopped. Not only that; in Indian conditions importing machines and utilising them on an annual rent of Rs. 14 lakhs cuts into the revenues of the country. Will the Government examine this problem and prevail upon the companies to stop automation until the country is in an advanced position when labour will be so short as to require automation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, in some cases some automation may be inevitable but the main thing is if there is any staff which is rendered surplus as a result of that automation, those people must be absorbed somewhere else. The Committee

during their deliberations came across cases where people were being forced to retire on voluntary retirement but which, in fact, is retrenchment. This retrenchment was going on and at the same time fresh recruitment was being made. These are some of the anomalies which have come to the notice of the Committee and proper action will be taken.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know what were the circumstances under which the Government allowed these foreign oil companies to import machinery which is leading to retrenchment? You cannot have automation and still retain the labour force. It is the Government which has bungled, which has given them foreign exchange to import the machinery, given them import licences. Now they are sacking our people and the Government is making appeals without meaning. May I know the circumstances under which these import licences were issued?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I am afraid I do not know the circumstances under which the import licences were issued. It is the other Ministry. The question must be put to another Ministry.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, on a point of order. One Minister cannot be allowed to say that he does not know the circumstances under which automatic machines have been allowed to be imported. The Government functions on the principle of joint responsibility. Are we to understand that the foreign oil companies have been allowed to import automatic machinery without any consultation with the Labour Ministry?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The hon. Member probably knows that some of these oil companies have been using these automatic machines since the last fifteen or twenty years. It is not entirely a new thing. Some may have introduced new ones, but many of them have been using it from old times.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I ask the Government if they are aware of the fact that one of the oil companies has closed down a can manufacturing factory on the plea that they do not want it on their own business considerations? At the same time, the oil company has taken an attitude saying that the tripartite resolution on rationalisation

is not legally binding and that the company cannot retain surplus staff indefinitely. It so looks that the Government's attitude is that of a helpless spectator. May I ask the hon. Minister if he is intending to assert himself and tell the foreign oil companies that these things will not be tolerated.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : The question of manufacture of these tins is connected with the availability of tin itself. Now, oil is transported in bulk quantities, through automatic machines it is pumped into various containers and oil tankers, and wagons.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Are you satisfied?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Because the tin is not available, they were forced to close down certain canning sections. But whatever be the decision taken by Government, I am sure the Government will enforce it.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: I would like to know from the Government whether they have any policy with regard to this matter. On the one hand, the Government cannot say, the Ministry of Labour and Employment cannot say, that they do not know anything about what the Commerce Ministry does. In the first place, Government functions as a whole, or you accept absolute anarchy and chaos in this Government. I would like to know from you whether you have any policy. With regard to automation, it is not only with regard to the oil industry. In the LIC and various other departments and concerns there has been this automation and consequent on this automation there has been displacement of labour. Unless the Ministry of Labour and Employment are seized of this matter, they cannot proceed with the work of that Ministry. The entire question of labour is involved in this. Therefore, I would like to know from the Labour Minister whether they have any policy with regard to automation and also whether the Labour Ministry had objected, at any stage, to the import of these automatic machines and things like that, because it is very well known that the manufacturers of these machines and those who own these oil companies are almost the same people. They have different companies. They import these automatic machines and operate them in their oil companies and thus displace Indian labour. I would like to know from

the Government whether they have any policy with regard to this.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir, the Government has a definite policy and the policy is that automation, if any allowed, should not lead to any retrenchment? That is the policy of the Government.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: Did you object to the import of the machines? (No reply)

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: From the answer which has now been given by the Minister, may I take it that the Government will prevent any move on the part of LIC to import automatic machines?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: That is a different question, which should be addressed to the LIC.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: When he says that the policy of the Government is not to allow these machines to be imported, then, logically it means that you will not permit the import of these machines for the LIC.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The hon. Member knows the foreign exchange position in the country and anything, which can be avoided, is not imported at all.

RECRUITMENT OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS FOR UNESCO PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

*59. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO, has invited the Secretary-General of the U. S. S. R. National Commission for UNESCO, to India to discuss the recruitment of Soviet scientists for UNESCO programmes in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed discussion?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Recruitment of Soviet Scientists for UNESCO's Programmes in India

On an invitation from the Indian National Commission • for Co-operation with

UNESCO, Ministry of Education, the Secretary-General of the U. S. S. R. National Commission for UNESCO paid a visit to India from 29th March, 1966 to 6th April, 1966. The purpose of his visit was to exchange views and ideas with the Indian National Commission on developing and strengthening relations between the two National Commissions in pursuit of the common ideals of UNESCO. The discussions, which were informal, included *inter alia* questions relating to Soviet assistance to India in the fields of science and technology under UNESCO Programme. At present, assistance is given in the form of provision of (a) services of experts, (b) equipment, and (c) training facilities for Indian teachers and scientists in the U.S.S.R., in connection with the advanced centres of study in basic sciences in Indian universities, re-shaping of programmes of science education in secondary schools and development of engineering and technological institutions.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know, Sir, whether there is any programme for opening science research centres in India under this U. S. S. R. collaboration arrangement and if 'Yes', what will be their number and their location? Is it settled?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: The programme, which has been worked out in collaboration with the USSR, is on three planes. One is improvement of science education. The second is assistance for our centres of advanced studies and the third is help in technical and technological education, for instance, the IIT in Bombay. The scheme mentioned by my hon. friend does not fall within the three categories I have mentioned.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : May I know Sir, whether Government has taken any decision to send Indian teachers and scientists to the U. S. S. R. in the year 1966-67?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Yes, Sir. This is part of the scheme of fellowships given by the USSR for training our teachers and scientists. Six teachers from the various centres of advanced studies left for the USSR during the biennium 1963-64 for training purposes. During the current biennium 1965-66, names of about 28 teachers from the different centres of advanced studies have been recommended for UNESCO fellowships. These