

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: There are no minorities left.

WHITLEY COUNCILS FOR P AND T
DEPARTMENT

*507. DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Whitley Councils were demanded by the P and T Unions sometime back; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Yes.

(b) As an alternative to Whitley Councils, the Government have since evolved and announced a Scheme for Joint Consultation and Compulsory Arbitration for Central Government Employees. The details of the Scheme are still being finalised by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The scheme will be implemented on finalisation of the details by Home Ministry when it will be applicable to all the Ministries including P and T.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I with your permission ask what is understood by the words, "Whitley Council", and how far does the proposal of the Government of India differ from the objective of the Whitley Council?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Madam, the main feature of the scheme which has been evolved is that there will be compulsory arbitration and machinery for joint consultation in the Whitley Council. There are some other features also, but all the details are being worked out by the Home Ministry, not by us in the P and T Department. So we are not directly concerned with the details in the scheme.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask, Madam, why it is that the hon. Minister is not aware of the details that are being worked out by the Home Ministry in regard to this particular matter, and whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Royal Commission on Labour, of

which I happened to be a member at that time, has recommended a certain procedure for the settlement of disputes, applicable in the first instance to the railways, whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to this particular recommendation which, in my opinion, is eminently desirable?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: All these things have been taken into account by the Home Ministry but, as I have stated, we cannot go into the details at this stage, because they are being worked out in the Home Ministry in consultation with the union representatives whenever necessary, and the main features I have already indicated.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Madam, may I know why the scheme is being finalised by the Home Ministry and not by the Labour Ministry? Is it the Labour Ministry's job to regulate industrial relations, not the Home Ministry's; the Home Ministry's job is to arrest people.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: I do not think so, and because this scheme will apply to all the Central Government employees, I think, the Home Ministry is primarily concerned.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Madam, may I know—it was reported recently in the press that the differences between the departments and the representatives of the employees' organisations had been ironed out and that they had almost come to an agreement—what were the specific differences between the P and T Department and their employees and how they have been removed?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: The scheme evolved by the Home Ministry was forwarded to the different unions and service organisations. They have been submitting their comments and we have been forwarding these comments—the comments from the National Federation of the P and T Employees unions—and the Home Ministry is taking them into account. The main objection was to that clause which was regarding abjuring strikes in all circumstances and also regarding non-participation by non-employees as nominees of the unions. These were the two objections.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: It is very strange to find, Madam, that where the

conditions of the working class are considered, the Government goes in for the outmoded rules and regulations of the Whitley Commission.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You do not give your opinion. You ask a question.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: I have a question and it is coming. It is outmoded even as far as the British workers are concerned—it is forty years old—and why should that be invented and introduced for the working class here where, for the economic development of our country, we copy and adopt the latest researches and techniques? And what the working class now desires is . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you want? What is your question?

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: My question is this. As far as the working class in this country is concerned, they desire a negotiating machinery and a provision to refer matters of difference to arbitration under the Industrial Disputes Act. Will the Minister of Communications or the entire Government of India be pleased to state whether they will introduce this arbitration machinery for the Central Government employees, which is long pending?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Madam, it is there already in the new scheme that has been evolved. We are not following the Whitley Commission as it was or as it is. We are modifying that scheme as far as necessary, and I have already stated that the whole thing is in the process of being examined. So now it cannot be said what final shape it will take, but the main feature of compulsory arbitration is 'here.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Madam, may I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that all the labour unions including the I.N.T.U.C. have rejected the proposal made by the Home Ministry—may I request the Labour Minister to come to the rescue of the Communications Minister here?—and may I ask how, without knowing the implications of the proposal, he can convince his own employees, that is the P and T employees who have rejected that proposal? So, is the Minister

aware of this that all the labour unions including the I.N.T.U.C. have not agreed to the proposal made by the Home Ministry?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Madam, it is entirely wrong; as far as I know, the unions have accepted the basic idea behind the scheme. They have accepted that this compulsory arbitration clause is good for the workers. As regards other things, I think, it is premature to say anything.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: With your permission, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he himself has read the chapter on conciliation in the Labour Commission's report? If he has read that chapter, does he not find that the ideas that he is now advancing are on par with the suggestions made in that report?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But the report is yet to come. Next question.

*508. [Postponed to the 23rd March, 1965.]

वैदेशिक प्रचार

*509. श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीनी आक्रमण तथा काश्मीर की समस्या पर विदेशों में, खास तौर से अफ्रीका में, हमारा प्रचार कार्य अपर्याप्त पाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो विदेशों में हमारे प्रचार कार्य को प्रभावी बनाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

†[EXTERNAL PUBLICITY]

*509. **SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our publicity in foreign countries, especially in the

†[] English translation.