

whose applications were rejected last year, is also included or whether there are new applications?

श्री शिनेश सिंह : हर साल फिर से दरख्वास्त देनी पड़ती है ।

SHRI ABID ALI: May I know whether Mr. Abdullah's application for a permit to go to Haj will be treated along with other applications in the ordinary course and a lottery will be drawn as it is the procedure laid down by the Central Haj Committee or it will be specifically treated?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not allow that because that question is over.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: What is the quota of Jammu and Kashmir out of the 17,500 pilgrims being allowed to go for Haj?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not the break-up—he said.

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST THE MANAGEMENT OF BALLARPUR COLLIERIES

*736. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several prosecutions were launched against the management of Ballarpur Collieries in Chanda District for non-payment of legal dues under the Tribunal Award and Bonus Scheme;

(b) whether all these prosecutions were withdrawn by the Department before the employer paid the dues to the workers; and

(c) whether all the general conditions laid down for withdrawal of court cases were fulfilled before withdrawal of these prosecutions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA): (a) Eight prosecutions were launched against the management of

Ballarpur, Sasti and Ghugus Collieries. Seven out of these were launched under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act for alleged breaches of the Coal Award, as modified by the Labour Appellate Tribunal's decision, and one was under the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme for non-payment of Bonus.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Was it not a fact that some of the officers of the Labour Ministry tendered advice to the Unions there to settle it?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: Not to my knowledge.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Is it not a fact that the settlement is contrary to the Payment of Wages Act, section 23?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: I do not know whether it is against section 23 of the Payment of Wages Act but a settlement is a settlement which is mutually agreed between the workers' representatives and the employers' representatives.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Section 23 prohibits any agreement on an award and that too of an all-India nature. Can a settlement bringing less to the workers to the tune of Rs. 4 lakhs be arrived at?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: If the workers feel that they have really lost something, probably as much as four lakhs of rupees as mentioned by the hon. Member, they should have complained to us, but so far we have not received any complaint whatsoever.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: May I know, Sir, whether it is proper for officers to start negotiations for settlements on prosecutions launched by Government?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: I have already answered that question, Sir. I do not know whether any officer interfered or intervened in this question but anyway I will look into it again.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Is it not a fact, Sir, that before launching a prosecution they have to obtain the sanction of the Government? If so, for the withdrawal of it did they obtain such sanction, Sir?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: Well, in some cases Government will have to sanction, and in some other cases the Chief Commissioner of Labour can sanction.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: May I know, Sir—the hon. Member said that the loss of labourers came to something like four lakhs of rupees. If that is not correct—may I know, Sir, what is the information of the hon. Minister? How much loss was incurred by the workers in this connection?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: I have no information except the information given by the hon. Members here.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: May I know, Sir, whether there are any other cases where such procedure was adopted by the conciliation machinery?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: Not to my knowledge.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: After hearing the replies of the hon. Minister, may I not request him, since this is a very very strange case, that has happened in our country, can he not please undertake to probe into the matter and reply to the House?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: I have already stated, Sir, that I will look into the matter further.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the Minister is satisfied that the majority of the labour affected entered into the agreement consciously and knowing the loss that they were suffering, and if it was not a majority, may I ask whether the Government will take steps to undo the wrong committed by the minority on the majority?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA: Well, I do not know whether they agreed to this consciously or otherwise, but so far as the number of workers is concerned, the majority of them have agreed.

MANNING OF AIR-CRAFT FACTORIES

*737. { SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA
RAJA:†
SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly formed aircraft manufacturing plants, for example, M/G factories are manned by qualified persons;

(b) whether the technical officers of the Air Force who have had training in foreign countries on advanced aeronautical subjects are being utilised for such projects of national importance; and

(c) if so, how many such officers are employed on such projects and how many of them are employed in maintenance work in the Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS):

(a) Yes, Sir. The nucleus staff is made up of qualified persons. Training programmes have been initiated to meet the further requirements.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati C. Ammanna Raja.