

USA and other countries also have participated in that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know the names of the countries.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: But I do not have the list of all the countries from which tenders were received.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: What will be the cost of sand per ton transported through this ropeway by the time it reaches the pithead?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not have the figures.

HUNGER-STRIKE BY H.A.L. WORKERS

*540. { SHRIMATI TARA
RAMCHANDRA SATHE:
SHRI N. SRI RAMA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-items published in the 'Hindu' dated the 17th February, 1964, that 1000 workers of the Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri had gone on hunger-strike from 16th February, 1964 to reinforce their demand for withdrawal of the appeal filed by the management against the Award of the Meher Industrial Tribunal; and

(b) if so, whether Government is considering the question of withdrawal of the appeal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN):

(a) A number of day workers who are off-duty on Sunday along with other industrial workers of Poona made a public demonstration of a fast in Poona for 12 hours on Sunday the 16th February 1964. The shift workers

attended to their work as usual on that day in the factory at Pimpri, but did not visit the factory canteen. This demonstration is understood to have been organised against the action of the management in filing an appeal in the Supreme Court against the award of the Industrial Tribunal.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: Is it not a fact that the Labour Minister had laid down a policy in the Tripartite Conference that no party should go in appeal if once a judicial award is given by the Industrial Tribunal and, if so, does not the Government's filing an appeal in the Supreme Court contravene the policy it stands for?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Without going into the question whether the Labour Minister has stated that or not—I am not aware of it; perhaps, he might have stated it—I may say that here the appeal is not against the Award as such. The Supreme Court has laid down two principles for the fixation of wages, namely, the ability to pay and the prevalent rate of wages in each region. But so far no decision has been given about the profitability of the public sector companies and the relation of amenities to wages of public sector employees *versus* the private sector employees. So, on this question of principle, the appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court. It is a matter of principle and not so much of dispute. The management has also agreed to bear the cost of printing that may be incurred by the union in presenting the documents to the Supreme Court. The management may also agree to share a part of the cost of litigation that may be incurred by the union.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Minister has said that the appeal was on a point of principle. I should like to ask him whether the appeal has been at all on the question of a higher quantum of dearness allowance as recommended by the tribunal. Secondly, a related question I should ask the Government

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Sathe.

whether they are going to take the same stand as the private sector in regard to the ability to pay. The Government of India is behind that factory.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, as the matter is *sub judice*, I do not like to go into the matter further. As far as the Government taking a stand is concerned, it is a limited company. Of course it is a fully Government-owned company, we would like to be model employers, any Government undertaking, any public undertaking would like be model employers. At the same time certain principles have to be settled and it is good that these principles are got settled by the highest judicial forum of the country so that neither labour nor management are left in any doubt as to the application of those principles.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Minister has made an amazing statement that he is not aware of the labour policy of the Government of India and that he is ignorant of the decisions arrived at at the Indian Labour Conference on the initiative of the Labour Minister. May I know whether he will take the trouble of getting the views of the Labour Ministry in the matter of honouring them?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I was only referring to that particular statement of the Labour Minister and I may assure the hon. Member that we are keeping in close touch with the Labour Ministry at the Centre. And not only that, we are keeping in close touch with the Maharashtra Government, with the Chief Minister of the Maharashtra Government and with the Labour Minister of Maharashtra. So there is no question of doing anything without the knowledge of the Labour Ministry either at the Centre or at Bombay, and as I said, I may assure the hon Member that we would like to uphold the interests and the welfare of workers. It is for that reason that the management has agreed to participate in the expenditure, I

mean, to contribute towards the expenditure of the litigation.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know, Sir, whether it is at the instruction of the Ministry that the management went on appeal to the Supreme Court, and if it is at the instruction of the Ministry, how does it reconcile with the views of the Labour Ministry?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I should like to tell the hon. Member that the management was left free in this matter. It was asked to decide whether they should take the matter to the Supreme Court or not. The Central Government did not issue any directives in this matter—I should like to assure the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: The hon. Minister has stated that he wants certain broad principles to be laid down regarding fixation of wages, etc., in the public sector undertakings and that is why he is going to the Supreme Court, then, instead of filing an appeal, why was not a joint reference, both by Government and the Workers' Union, made to the Supreme Court?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I may explain this matter further. The matter has been more or less settled. As far as I know, the Union is happy and the employees are also happy there. We have come to certain interim agreements, and these questions here, instead of helping really, may aggravate the situation. Whatever has been done has been done with full consultations. To the last question asked by my hon. friend as to why we had to go to the Supreme Court after coming to an agreement with the Union, the answer is very simple. There is an Award by the Adjudicator, and unless that Award is modified by a superior court that Award stands. In fact the offer which I had made to the Union was that we should come to an agreement and that agreement should be filed as the joint petition of the two parties, and the Supreme Court would give effect to that. I hope that is what is going to happen in fact now. I would

therefore request hon. Members not to pursue this matter.

*541. [The questioner (Shri Krishna Dutt) was absent. For answer, vide col. 4144 infra.]

VACANCIES OF LANGUAGE TEACHERS

*542. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to refer to Starred Question No. 314 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1964 and state:

(a) what is the percentage of vacancies of Language Teachers, Grade I, which are to be filled from amongst trained graduate teachers for a stipulated period as suggested by the Delhi Administration;

(b) what is the stipulated period for which vacancies will be filled; and

(c) how much time will be taken by the Delhi Administration for filling the vacancies referred to in part (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) 25 per cent. of vacancies falling in the promotion quota according to the Recruitment Rules.

(b) This arrangement will govern the vacancies arising during three years ending with March, 1966.

(c) The vacancies will be filled as early as possible.

SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: How many trained graduate teachers holding M.A. degree in Hindi, language teachers were promoted in the years 1962 and 1963 and what is the percentage of these teachers in these years?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Now, Sir, if I have understood the hon. Member correctly, the scheme was this. We have Grade I teachers and Grade II teachers and the promotion was 50 per cent.; it was 50 per cent. by recruitment and 50 per cent. by promotion. Now the difficulty that arose was this. Ordinary teachers, not language tea-

chers, could apply both for promotion to the language or the ordinary post, and therefore it was that we had decided that the posts for language teachers should be restricted to the language teachers in Grade II. There was some objection to that and therefore the arrangement now arrived at is that 25 per cent should be reserved for language teachers, and this is to the other teachers, and this arrangement will only continue for three years.

*543. [The questioner (Shri Ram Sahai) was absent. For answer, vide col. 4145-46 infra.]

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF JESSOP & Co. LTD., CALCUTTA

*544. { SHRI SHIVA NAND
RAMAUL:†
SHRI MADHO RAM
SHARMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Jessop and Co. Ltd., Calcutta is still being run, managed and controlled by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the date from which and the period for which the management has been taken over by Government;

(c) the reasons for which management of the said industrial undertaking was taken over;

(d) whether Government have provided any administrative or technical services to the Company; and

(e) whether Government will be pleased to lay on the Table of the House the details of the work done and progress made by this Company since it was taken over by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shiva Nand Ramaul.