

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: What action can we take when Nepal is having negotiations with China about her problems?

#### GRIEVANCES OF THE P.T.I. EMPLOYEES

\*632. SHRI V. V. SARWATE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a letter sent by Shri N. G. Gorey, M.P., President, Press Trust of India Employees' Union, addressed to the Minister of Home Affairs, regarding the affairs of the Press Trust of India and the grievances of its employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the points in the letter have been brought to the notice of the management of the Press Trust of India. Matters concerned with the working conditions of the employees of PTI are being sent to the Ministry of Labour for proper action.

SHRI V. V. SARWATE: May I know whether the Minister will place a copy of the letter on the Table of the House?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: This is not a public discussion. Mr. Gorey's letter is itself confidential. I mean, it deals with the problems and grievances of the employees, and I do not think that any purpose will be served by putting it on the Table of the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether Government is in a position—or the hon. Minister is in a position—to say whether in forwarding this letter to the Ministry concerned, he expressed his own views in regard to the issues raised?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Sir, there are a large number of points and it is difficult for me to give an answer. But I think there are a large number of important points, and we have expressed in definite terms to the management itself what they ought to do because the letter is not asking the Government to do something but is rather asking the Government to see what can be done about these matters. Now, a large number of points concern the technical question of pay scale<sup>a</sup> and other things. Now, these matters can only be<sup>b</sup> dealt with adequately by the Ministry of Labour, and we are asking them to take them up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I understand that point. But did the hon. Minister receive any reply from the P.T.I. management and, if so, what was the reply in regard to whatever they had communicated to the management in this matter and may I know whether there was an interview?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In reply to what?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In reply to whatever the hon. Minister may have communicated to the P.T.I.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They have sent it to the Labour Ministry. That is what he said.

DR. B. V. KESKAR: We have communicated to the management of the P.T.I. about some of the grievances. Now, these are matters in which there is no formal right for us. Because we have no formal right, we wrote to the management in a friendly spirit and put it to them that they ought to do something. Well, I am not aware whether we have received any reply about that.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Is the Government aware that what has been stated in parts (a) and (b) of this question has been satisfactorily settled out of

court by the P.T.I, employees and the P.T.I, management and that there are no grievances now on the part of the P.T.I, employees against the management?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: Though I have no official information, I think that what the hon. Member has stated is correct to the extent of the outstanding disputes regarding the conditions of the employees.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Is it one of the points raised in the P.T.I, employees' letter that the Press Trust of India should be made a Corporation as suggested by the Press Commission and, if so, what has been the Government's reaction to that?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I do not want to discuss it here. There are about fifty different points raised by the P.T.I, people here and it will not be possible to reply.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, will I be wrong . . .

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Whether it has raised . . .

DR. B. V. KESKAR: It is not possible to discuss it.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: He can say 'yes' or 'no'.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will I be wrong if I assume that the hon. Minister has sympathies for the points that have been raised by and large?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have they got your sympathies by and large for all the points raised?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: There are a large number of points. How can I say about them generally? About the grievances, not only have they the sympathy but, as was mentioned by the hon. Shri Mani, the settlement that has been arrived at about a large number of points is due to having the sympathy for their grievances.

#### ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

•633. SHRI V. V. SARWATE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any limit fixed by Government on the number of accredited correspondents a newspaper or a news agency may have in New Delhi;

(b) whether the Manager and the News Editor of the Press Trust of India who are not supposed to do reporting work are also accredited correspondents;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for prescribing minimum educational qualifications for the accredited correspondents in view of the fixation of higher pay scales for them; and

(d) whether residential accommodation at concessional rates is provided to the accredited correspondents by Government?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Normally, a newspaper including a newspaper published from more than one centre or a newspaper group, is entitled to one accredited correspondent. However, according to the Conventions laid down for the application of the Rules for the accreditation of correspondents, a newspaper including a newspaper chain or group, is entitled to have a maximum of eight correspondents for specialised coverage in various subjects or languages. Local newspapers are allowed the additional facility of their Chief Reporter being accredited solely for following up Delhi news with various Central Government Ministries and Departments. A newly-established news agency, which gives a daily telegraphic service of general news is. In the initial stage of its growth, allowed