

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Sir, so far as this case is concerned, it is only on a loan basis. And generally, I think, in other cases also, Sir, it is on a loan basis.

Du. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: What is the total amount asked by the Madhya Pradesh Government for this Capital Project, and how much expenditure they have already incurred on the Capital?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Sir, originally the amount they had indicated was Rs. 14-8 crores, but the latest estimate that they have supplied is for a little more than Rs. 19 crores.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: In view of the fact that they wanted Rs. 19 crores, is it not a fact that the amount so far granted to them is very much less?

(No reply.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

MEMORANDUM BY THE MADRAS UNION OF JOURNALISTS AND EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS LTD. EMPLOYEES' UNION

fSHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: t *469 J SHRI ABDUR REZZAK |_ KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government had received any memorandum from the Madras Union of Journalists and Express Newspapers Ltd. Employees' Union early in August, 1959;

(b) if so, the nature of the complaints made in the memorandum; and

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

(c) the steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) Yes.

(b) The important demands were:—

(i) reopening of the Madras establishment of Express Newspapers Ltd.;

(ii) Andhra Prabha and Andhra Prabha Weekly to be published by Express Newspapers Ltd., even from Vijayawada;

(iii) Wage scales to be comparable to those obtaining in The Hindu and The Mail, Madras;

(c) The main dispute was referred to adjudication by the Government of Madras which was quashed by the High Court. Thereafter an appeal has been filed by the workers. There seems to be no possibility of amicable settlement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Union, in their memorandum, pointed out that Mr. Goenka, the Chairman of that Company, started moving certain items of machinery from Madras with the intention of shifting it to Andhra in contravention of the assurance given by him to his employees?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is what has been mentioned in the memorandum.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, whether it is also a fact that Mr. Goenka, the Chairman of that Company, refused to respond to the efforts sought to be made by the Chief Minister of Madras for bringing about some settlement, and that he also refused to see the Labour Commissioner?

SHRI ABID ALI: Several attempts were made to settle the matter, and several conferences were held. I do not know which particular instance the hon. Member has in view when, he says that it was refused.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, he has got the memorandum with him. May I know whether these things were pointed out in that memorandum—that the Chairman had refused to meet the Labour Commissioner and that the Chairman did not respond to the efforts sought to be made" by the Chief Minister of Madras for bringing about some settlement?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, I have already said that there seems to be no possibility of amicable settlement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir—when the company has locked out nearly 700 journalists and employees—the reason why it is being given facilities by the Government for starting a new service, especially when such facilities being granted at this moment are being objected to by the journalists themselves?

SHRI ABID ALI: But it is in reference to the decision given by the High Court, Sir. When the High Court has given a decision what can we do?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, why the Government—when they did not intervene in order to bring about some settlement, in spite of being requested to do so—have granted a licence to Mr. Goenka to set up a separate news agency, especially when he has locked out 700 people?

SHRI ABID ALI: Which Government has given that licence?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Central Government and the State Government.

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, I am not aware of it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it not a fact that Mr. Goenka made it a condition that if 47 employees—named by him—were allowed to be dismissed, he would be prepared to reopen his concern in Madras?

SHRI ABID ALI: Mr. Goenka has already paid Rs. 8 lakhs on account of compensation to these workers.

♦470. [The questioner (Shri Vijay Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2294 infra.]

DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN DISTRICTS OF UTTAR PRADESH

♦471. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 646 in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th December, 1958, and state:

(a) whether the detailed proposals for the year 1959-60, for the development of the Eastern Districts of Uttar Pradesh have been received; and

(b) if so, what action the Planning Commission have taken on these proposals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission has conveyed its concurrence to the programme drawn up by the U.P. Government against the current year's special allotment of Rs. 2 crores for the development of backward areas including Eastern U.P., districts of Bundelkhand and the hill districts.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether there is any scheme sent by the U.P. Government for developing small-scale industries in the Eastern Districts?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Yes, Sir. Industries are also included in that scheme.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: I mean, Sir, the small-scale industries.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Sir, the general heading is 'Industries'. And that would necessarily include small-scale industries also.