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EVIDENCE TENDERED BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE DELHI RENT CONTROL BILL, 1958

SHRI R. S. DOOGAR (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence tendered before the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Delhi Rent Control Bill. 1958.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958—

continued.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): Sir, the other day I had covered most of the points which were raised here with regard to the Bill under discussion. That day the hon. Member Dr. Shri-mati Seeta Parmanand made some suggestions. One of them was that the workers should be trained so that they may become more useful in the industry. This particular item, I hope, will be taken up by the Central Labour Institute when instituted. The suggestion that the Employment Exchanges should be more helpful particularly to partially disabled persons is a commendable one and we will examine it. Regarding rehabilitation. I have already clarified the position the other day. She had also mentioned that some sample survey should be undertaken in some industry. This has already been done with regard to the cement industry.

Moulana Faruqi Sahib mentioned that such cases should receive quicker attention by the officers concerned. As I already explained the other day, our intention is that these cases should be disposed of within the shortest possible time.

Shri Sonusing Patil suggested that workers in the farms should be covered. About this I have already made a mention in my opening remarks that the amending Bill has provision to cover workers engaged in the construction and working of tubewells •nd also of tractors.

DR. R. B. GOUR (Andhra Pradesh): What about workers connected with oil engines?

SHRI ABID ALI: My hon. friend opposite has been complaining that the proposals mentioned in the memorandum circulated by Government have been omitted although they were sufficiently progressive and that the Government has altered its decision. Sir, those items were not decisions. Whatever suggestions were received from Trade Unions and other organisations were put in the memorandum which was circulated. So there is no change of policy; perhaps my hon. friend is under a misunderstanding.

Sir, a suggestion was made that all accidents should be reported. The difficulty is, if all accidents are reported, it may be to the detriment of efficiency and the more serious cases of injuries which should receive quicker attention may suffer. Of course the Act provides that whenever compensation is paid this should be reported to the Factory Inspectorate; so, that covers the point which the hon. Member has in view.

Now, all the State Governments have been asked to strengthen tht Factory Inspectorate and also have a Medical Department in that section

With regard to bonus, according to the definition of wages the amount paid to workers on account of bonus is included for the purpose of calculating the quantum of compensation.

Sir, I may also submit that The suggestions which have been made here will all be taken into consideration at the time of drafting another Bill.

In the end I may submit that we have tried to provide'a simple procedure for ensuring timely payment of compensation by employers and if there are any defaulters they will have to pay penalty. The reduction that has been made in the waiting period will be of considerable help to workers absenting for short periods on account of minor injuries. We know that a good many enlightened employers pay their workers full wages even during this short period and others may follow suit. Schedule I is being revised so that workers may