

ib) if so, what are the salient features of this new scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) The 'Incentive Bonus Scheme' which will be introduced in one of the Government of India Presses very soon, on an experimental basis, has been finalised. This will not, however, replace the 'Trade Apprenticeship Scheme'.

(b) The salient features of the 'Incentive Bonus Scheme' are: (i) A fixed minimum out-turn by the various operatives of the Government of India Presses would be insisted upon (ii) A bonus at the rate of 5 Naye Paise per hour per Rs. 10 of each operative's basic monthly pay, for extra out-turn of work in terms of hours, will be paid, (iii) A deduction at the rate of 2 Naye Paise per Rs. 10 of each operative's basic monthly pay per hour for short out-turn of work in terms of hours would be made.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister remembers that in the report for the years 1957-58 it has been stated at page 49 that this Trade Apprenticeship Scheme' which was in vogue in the presses at Delhi, Aligarh and Calcutta had been abolished?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Sir, at one time it was contemplated to close it down, but since it was proving useful we have continued with the scheme.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, when this decision was taken to close that and when the decision was taken to revive it again, because the report says that it has been closed.

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Evidently the decision was taken after the report was made, but I am not quite sure of the exact date.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether this new scheme which has been finalised and which is to be enforced is in practice in any other country of the world?

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: In our own presses the mono and lino operators are already covered by this 'Incentive Bonus Scheme', and I may inform the House that on an average a mono operator earns Rs. 50 more as incentive bonus.

RETRENCHMENT IN BUSINESS CONCERNS ENGAGED IN IMPORT TRADE AT PORTS

*258. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of employees in business concerns engaged in import trade in Calcutta, Bombay and other places are faced with retrenchment;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent such retrenchment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Government is aware that a certain amount of retrenchment of staff has either taken place or is likely to take place in some business concerns engaged in import trade because of the recent restrictions on imports. As the House is aware, these restrictions have become necessary on account of shortage of foreign exchange. The business concerns and the employees have to make their own alternative arrangements. Business concerns could diversify their trading activities and avail themselves of the opportunities of employment offered by the various schemes of industrial development of the Central and State Governments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Government have received representations from various trade unions as well as firms pointing out the growing danger of retrenchment and also actual retrenchment and, if so, whether on the basis of these representations the Government have actually come to any conclusion with regard to the number of persons who have been actually retrenched in Calcutta, Bombay and other places?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, I have received only two representations from employees and both of them from Bombay. The number involved is very small but it is inevitable that in the large importing houses which employ large staff there might be some chance of retrenchment.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Well, the hon. Minister has said, "There might be some chance of retrenchment." I have got these papers and they should get these papers since they are running affairs of the State. I have got a list here which shows that retrenchment has taken place in as many as sixteen firms in Calcutta alone involving several hundred people. Well, the names are there, but I do not want to take the time of the House in heading them out. Now may I know, Sir, whether the Government is also aware that in some cases the workers or the employees are being retrenched by pleading this import restriction whereas such retrenchment may be avoided?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, as regards the relationship between the employer and the employee we do not know about it. All that we know is that any restriction in trade is bound to result in some retrenchment, and some of the enterprising houses have diversified their trade and have gone into internal distribution as well.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here in the statement it is stated, "Business concerns could diversify their trading activities and avail themselves of the

opportunities of employment offered by the various schemes of industrial development of the Central and State Governments." May I know, Sir, what steps the Government have taken or contemplate to take with a view to helping these firms and other concerns affected by the import restriction so that they can diversify their trade and maintain the employment level?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The procedures are well laid down and to the firms or anybody else it is just open to ask for those privileges.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, exactly where the procedures are well laid down? It seems nobody knows where they are laid down and besides, Sir, I would also like to ask whether the Government has considered using some of these firms affected by the import restriction for distributing the commodities which are dealt with by the State Trading Corporation or by the Government with a view to helping them and the employees.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The State Trading Corporation as a matter of policy undertakes distribution through established importers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether in such cases Government is taking special care to see that the small importers and the medium importers get most of the benefits from the State Trading Corporation in view of their financial and other difficulties?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is usually the case for the State Trading Corporation to deal with associations of importers.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Cannot the Government use their good offices with these business concerns to keep these people and feed them till the business improves and the Government helps them?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: I think this is the purpose of employers as well as Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that in some cases the import restrictions have not been properly administered, such as in the case of food for the babies or essential medicines and so on?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, there is shortage; that is all, and the indigenous sources are being developed in those lines.

WINDING UP OF INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SUPERVISION AND CONTROL IN LAOS

•259. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any proposal having been made by the Government of Laos to wind up the activities of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos;

(b) if so, whether India had been consulted by the Laos Government before making such a proposal; and

(c) whether India took any steps to counter this move on the part of the Laos Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The request of the Laotian Government for the dissolution of the Commission came up for discussion in the International Commission, Laos, on a resolution moved by the Canadian Delegate that the Commission be wound up in accordance with this request. The Canadian resolution was put to the vote and rejected by India and Poland.

Canada later moved that the Commission be adjourned *sine die*. The

Indian view is that the provisions of the Geneva Agreement' on Laos, particularly Article 39, do not permit final dissolution of the Laos Commission independently of the progress of political settlement in Vietnam and Cambodia. The Indian Delegate proposed an amendment which provided for the Commission being reconvened in accordance with normal procedures. The Commission adopted the amended proposal and adjourned on the 19th July, 1958.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It appears from the answer that the Government initially took the right view of the Geneva Agreement but then when it came to acting upon that agreement, working on the basis of that, it made certain concessions by accepting a compromise formula. May I know what is the reason for that and whether in the view of the Government it is felt that the suspension of the functions of this Commission will encourage those people who are interested in violation of the various provisions of the Geneva Agreement?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The hon. Member is perfectly right in saying that the Indian representative on the Commission agreed to a certain, what he calls, compromise but the compromise is itself in full keeping with the principle we had stated. As for possible violations, the Commission cannot stop violations even if they occur. All that the Commission can do is to examine a report about it and it can go to the spot and report. It was common ground for all parties including the two Co-Chairmen under the Geneva Agreement that this Commission should be reduced very considerably, in fact, reduced to the extent that they had no men to go about, to have check-posts etc., but we did feel that some kind of a symbolic representation should continue so that it can be added to or expanded whenever necessary and the other party felt that that was not necessary. So what has been decided is that symbolically it continues. It has only been adjourned and at present a member from India