

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Prime Minister as to whether any protest has been lodged with the Hungarian Government against the Budapest newspaper incorrectly reporting a statement of the Prime Minister of India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir. How can we protest for every minor thing that happens?

LABOUR UNION'S REPRESENTATION
AGAINST CLOSURE OF COFFEE HOUSES

*529. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether any labour unions have urged the Central Government to intervene in the matter of closing of some coffee houses and consequent retrenchment of labour?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDHA): Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know what the main representations are that have come?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: A representation has been received from the All-India Trade Union Congress and another from the Coffee Board Labour Union saying that these workers will be thrown out of employment.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the main grounds that have been urged against the closure of these Coffee Houses?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The main ground urged is that the people employed in the coffee houses will be thrown out of employment. Government is considering the question of letting out these Coffee Houses to the co-operative societies of those workers if they so desire.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know whether the Coffee Houses will be closed only in South India or will they be closed down in Northern India

also and also whether there will be intensive propaganda for coffee in Northern India?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: There are many well run hotels and restaurants in Northern India which are serving very good coffee and some of them shall be approved by the Coffee Board for purposes of sale of roasted and powdered coffee as well as the liquid.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: May I know whether it is a fact that an agreement was reached between the Coffee Board and the Vice-President, Joint Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of the Coffee Board Labour Union, as a result of which the notices previously served on the staff have been cancelled and that retrenchment is being effected on the basis of the agreement arrived at?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: I have said, Sir, that every effort will be made to find alternative employment for the employees of the Coffee Board in the Government hostels and other places. It has also been indicated to them that they can form co-operative societies and take over these Coffee Houses which shall be approved by the Coffee Board.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Coffee Houses are being closed because this way we would earn more of foreign exchange?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: That is not the sole purpose. In fact, these Coffee Houses were set up to promote the coffee drinking habit and have now served that purpose.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know whether the Government have instructed the Coffee Board not to implement their plan of closing down these Coffee Houses till such time as the co-operative societies are formed and the restaurants handed over to them?

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, reasonable time has been given to them. All these things are being looked into by the Coffee Board which is almost an autonomous organisation. We have advised the Board that they should, as far as possible, try to minimise the difficulties of the employees.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: From the Press we find that discussion is going on between the representatives of the workers engaged in these Coffee Houses on the one hand and Government on the other. May I know the main grounds on which the workers are demanding that the Coffee Houses should not be closed down?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has made that clear in answer to an earlier question.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: May I know, Sir, if the coffee house in Parliament House is also going to be closed?

(No reply.)

INDUSTRIES SET UP ON JAPANESE PATTERN

*530. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries set up in the country on the Japanese pattern for the development of small and cottage industries and the progress achieved in this regard;

(b) the total amount of money invested in these schemes; and

(c) the extent to which training imparted to displaced persons under these schemes has been utilised for propagation of the techniques?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA): (a) A prototype training-eum-production centre is being set up with Japanese machinery in West Bengal for the manufacture of bamboo products.

(b) The estimated expenditure is likely to be of the order of Rs. 6 79 lakhs.

(c) The centre has not yet started functioning though construction of the buildings is in progress and the machinery has been received.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, how many Japanese experts are employed for imparting training to these people in this?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: I do not think we have employed anyone as yet, Sir. I am only speaking from memory but we have made arrangements with Japan and one or two experts may come out for imparting training.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it not a fact that certain Japanese technicians were employed by the Ministry of Rehabilitation sometime back for imparting training to the displaced people at Faridabad?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: We had this expert for giving training in doll-making at Arab ki Sarai near Delhi. Now we have taken that expert to Calcutta and he is giving training on the same lines to our trainees from West Bengal.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, how many trainees have so far been made conversant in the line so as to impart training to others or to start their own industries separately?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: The centre has not started functioning as yet. The idea is to make a start with 150 trainees.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Are we training our own experts or are we going to have the Japanese experts for ever?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: That time has not yet arrived. At the moment I am concerned with giving training to the refugees.