

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Whether Government have received any communication from the Pakistan Ministry on this question?"

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether the proposal is being considered by the Government on its own or is it that the proposal has come from any other source?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This is in a very very preliminary stage. In fact, the hon. Minister made a statement the other day in the House and there is nothing more to add to what the hon. Minister said on that day.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that the Government of India is not in communication with the Pakistan Government on this matter at all?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is he to understand that the Government is not at all in communication with the Pakistan Government on this matter?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. How many times have I to answer the same question in a different form?

*366. [The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answer vide col. 2999 infra.]

*367. [The questioner (Shri V. K. Dhage) was absent. For answer vide col. 2999 infra.]

CASES PENDING BEFORE THE BENCHES OF THE LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*368. SHRI D. D. ITALIA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the four benches of the Labour Appellate Tribunal; and

(b) whether in the interests of quick disposal of the pending cases it is proposed to constitute more benches of the Tribunal?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI): (a) 1,618 appeals and 1,673 applications were pending on 28th February 1955.

(b) Yes. The number of regular benches has been increased from 4 to 5. It is also proposed to constitute on an *ad hoc* basis a few additional benches at suitable centres.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: May I know how long it will take to dispose of the pending appeals by the existing Tribunal?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: As I have already said, *ad hoc* benches are being constituted in the near future and the pending appeals will be disposed of as early as possible.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: May I know how many new cases come before the Tribunal every year?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: This is the monthly rate of filing and disposal of appeals:

Appeals—72

Monthly rate of disposal—42

Applications—108

Monthly rate of disposal—78.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: May I know whether there are many pending cases relating to Hyderabad before the Tribunal? If so, how many?

PROF. G. RANGA: And, for how long?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: I do not exactly remember but there are cases pending before the Tribunal from Hyderabad.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: Is the Government thinking of constituting any benches in Hyderabad State?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: As I said *ad hoc* benches for disposing of these appeals are being constituted and we have also issued instructions that the courts should go to the places from which appeals are pending.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know the average period for which these appeals are pending before the Labour Appellate Tribunal?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: I have not worked out the average period.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Have the Government got any definite idea because I understand the question of abolishing the Labour Appellate Tribunal is under consideration?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: I could not catch the question.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Does Government know that there are nearly 600 cases pending from the coal mines before the Labour Appellate Tribunal?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: I believe those cases are included in the total number given.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Are there any Tribunals which when they are half way through their labours are re-constituted and the re-constituted Tribunals are asked to hear the whole thing *de novo*?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: This question refers to the Coal Labour Appellate Tribunal and, for the information of the hon. Member, I may say that the Coal Tribunal has to be re-constituted this month because one of its members has been ailing and could not attend to the work which resulted in the work being delayed.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Shall I ask another question on the Coal Tribunal, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Coal Tribunal?

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: I have only volunteered information, Sir. Actually, it does not arise from this.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: He has volunteered something and he can volunteer something else also.

My question is, in view of the long delay in the disposal of cases by the Labour Appellate Tribunal, whether, the Government is considering any step either to expedite these measures in order to see that the cases of these employees who have to wait indefinitely are expedited or, is it that Government is considering the abolition of the Labour Appellate Tribunal itself?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: As I have already stated, in order to expedite the disposal of these cases, new *ad hoc* benches are being created.

As far as the abolition of the Appellate Tribunal is concerned, it is under active consideration of Government.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: How can the resignation of a member of the Tribunal necessarily mean a *de novo* trial?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI DESAI: That was the advice given by the Law Ministry.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Was there any difference among the members of the Coal Tribunal due to which the Tribunal had to be re-constituted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; he said that one member was ailing which resulted in the re-constitution.

RAILWAY FARE BETWEEN BAREILLY AND DELHI

*369. SHRI KAILASH BIHARI LALL: Will the Minister for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that previously passengers travelling between Bareilly and Delhi were allowed to travel either *via* Moradabad or *via* Aligarh without payment of any additional fare while travelling by the longer route;