

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Thirty-eight.

(b) A statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix IX, Annexure No. 110.]

12 Noon.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the hon. Members that the following letter has been received from Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo:

"I have been unable to attend the present session of the Rajya Sabha because of very painful boils * * * This condition has been made worse by intermittent fever * * * I, therefore, numbly request you, Sir, * * * to grant me leave of absence for this session * * *"

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo for remaining absent from the meetings of the House for the whole of the current session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- (i) REPORT OF THE TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE ON GORAKHPUR LABOUR
- (ii) RATIFICATION OF I.L.O. CONVENTION REGARDING FORCED LABOUR

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers:

(i) Report of the Tripartite Committee on Gorakhpur Labour. [Placed in Library. See No. S-533/54.]

(ii) Statement on the ratification of I.L.O. Convention (No. 29) concern-

ing Forced Labour. [Placed in Library. See No. S-112/55.]

THE HINDU MINORITY AND GUARDIANSHIP BILL, 1953— *continued*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mathur, you were speaking yesterday.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR (Rajasthan): Mr. Chairman, we were discussing amendments to clause 5 and I was giving my reasons why the list of natural guardians should be expanded. At present it includes only the father and mother. Amendments have been tabled asking for the inclusion of grandfather, grandmother, brothers and such other relations and so far as I could see, this amendment has received the overwhelming support from almost all the sections of the House. I think it was only from two of our Communist friends that the opposition to this amendment came. My friend Mr. Mazumdar in opposing this amendment gave his reasons and he talked of the socialistic pattern of society and of the social security. I have great respect for my hon. friend and whether I agree with him or not in this matter, I certainly can understand a socialistic pattern or a social security where the State takes any responsibility in the matter. But we must appreciate that in the present scheme of things, the State is taking absolutely no responsibility in the matter. There is no question of socialistic pattern being affected this way or that way at the present moment. The Government is taking no responsibility. All that is being done is that the Government wants to interfere and it ends at that. The Government interference is there without Government taking any responsibility whatsoever.

The present scheme of things is that in the absence of the father and mother, even the grandfather and grandmother or brothers, who are *de facto* guardians of the minor, will have to go to a court or to the District Magistrate and ask for his permission and get himself appointed as a guardian. Without