

event of his giving up studies before completion of the course of studies for which he is accepted, he will be liable to refund to the Government the money received by him as scholarship; and

(iv) the candidate accepted for training should give an undertaking to serve Governments, Central or State, for a minimum period of three years after completion of studies, if their services are required, and if employment is offered within three months of the completion of the course, where not already employed.

IMPROVEMENT OF MINOR PORTS

*479. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA (ON BEHALF OF DR. R. P. DUBE): Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance so far received from the Government of the United States of America for the improvement of minor ports in the country and for raising the standard of living of the port workers under the Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether any equipment has been received free for the above purposes under the Colombo Plan or Point Four Aid Programme?

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

(b) No, Sir.

PORT AND SHIPPING STATISTICS COMMITTEE

*480. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA (ON BEHALF OF DR. R. P. DUBE): Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on the Port and Shipping Statistics Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): About Rs. 9,000.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: When was this Committee appointed, Sir?

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SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In May 1952; and it submitted its report in July 1954.

INTERFERENCE WITH TRADE UNION RIGHTS OF PLANTATION LABOURERS

*482. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (ON BEHALF OF SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR): Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from the organisations of the plantation labourers regarding interference by the managers of plantations with the trade union rights of those labourers after the Plantation Labour Act came into force;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints and the names of the States and labour organisations from which they have been received;

(c) what is the nature of these complaints; and

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b). According to available information, three complaints have been received by the Madras Government, two from the Anamalais Plantation Workers' Union, Valparai, and one from the Vynaad Taluk Estate Mazdoor Sabha, Meppadi. Government of India have also received copies of two representations, one from the West Bengal Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress and the other from the Darjeeling District Chia Kaman Mazdoor Union.

(c) The complaints generally allege denial of access to estates, refusal to permit trade unions to hold meetings on estate premises and violence with a view to preventing trade union activities.

(d) The Government of Madras have advised the managements concerned to allow legitimate trade union

activities in estates and not to refuse permission to union officials to hold meetings. As State Governments are primarily concerned with matters relating to trade unions in plantations, no action was taken by Central Government on the copies of representations received by them.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is the hon. Minister aware that in spite of the advice given to the estate owners, the hindering of trade union organisation and activities continues?

SHRI ABID ALI: I do not think that is the position in the State of Madras, Sir.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Only recently, two months ago, an incident took place. Is the hon. Minister aware that in view of the fact that most of the lands in the Anamalais belong to the various estates and that the revenue lands are few, it is very difficult to carry on trade union activity?

SHRI ABID ALI: So far as legitimate trade union activities are concerned, I do not think such a difficulty exists. Of course, if it is something else, difficulty may be there.

SHRI S. BANERJEE: What do you mean by legitimate trade union activity?

SHRI ABID ALI: Legitimate is legitimate. The hon. Member need not.....

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the holding of meetings by the plantation workers legitimate or illegitimate?

SHRI ABID ALI: Holding of meetings for trade union activities is legitimate, but there may be meetings for other purposes also.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: For trade union activities, for asking them to pay subscriptions and for asking them to join trade union organisations. Is it legitimate or illegitimate?

SHRI ABID ALI: To that extent, of course, it is legitimate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Does the Government know that the ban by the estate owners applies even to meetings organised for asking the workers to pay subscription to a particular trade union, etc.?

SHRI ABID ALI: Firstly, the hon. Member may also be aware that so far as the workers are concerned, they have no legal right to hold such meetings within the estate premises; the good offices of the Madras Government or that of the State Governments are used wherever such a situation arises and the plantation managements are advised not to interfere with genuine trade union activities.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Is the hon. Minister aware that where the police have given permission for such meetings to be held, because the employers do not give permission the meetings are not being held, and so I would like to ask him as to what he means by 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate'.

SHRI ABID ALI: The police gives permission, wherever necessary, for political meetings also.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that victimisation is still going on in Vynaad, the place which he mentioned in the course of his reply to Mrs. Krishnan, as well as in the estates of Munnar, Mundakayam and such other places in Travancore-Cochin State?

SHRI ABID ALI: So far as I am aware, the present position is that there is no difficulty so far as legitimate trade union activities are concerned.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Has the Minister visited those places?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of legal opinion.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It is not, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You take it as the opinion of the hon. Minister, legal or illegal.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: I want to know whether the Minister visited those places to find out what were legal and what were illegal activities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may challenge it in a court of law.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: It is not a question of challenging, Sir.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: The Minister must be responsible in making such statements.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: I want to know from the Labour Minister this fact: the estate owners are preventing the workers from exercising their legal rights. What does the Government propose to do?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said that no legal activities are prohibited.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: From that my further question arises as to whether the Labour Minister has ascertained himself, by personal enquiries, whether the allegations made against the estate owners that they are interfering with the legal rights of the workers are correct or not.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you made any enquiries?

SHRI ABID ALI: There is absolutely no truth in that and the legal rights of the workers are not interfered with.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether the hon. Minister has made enquiries.

SHRI ABID ALI: I will never be able to satisfy these people and you know it, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. If you have made any personal enquiries, you may say so. No comments need be made.

SHRI ABID ALI: I have not.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: Is it a fact.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. Next question.

POSTAGE STAMPS BEARING THE EFFIGY OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE V AND HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

*489. SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (ON BEHALF OF SHRI GOVINDA REDDY): Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number and value of the Indian postage stamps bearing the effigy of His Late Majesty King George V and His Late Majesty King George VI which are still current?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 135.]

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I find that the number of stamps exceeds a crore and fifty lakhs and the face value is Rs. 31½ lakhs. May I know what exactly were the figures like one year and two years ago?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: On 1st January 1950 we had something like 855 million stamps and the figure now is 15 millions only. From 855 millions, we have brought the figure down to 15 millions. The manufacturing cost of these will perhaps be between Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 15,000 or about that.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: May I know how long it will take for these stamps to be eliminated?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The demonetisation will come into effect from the