

been taken to implement those suggestions before Government invited these gentlemen to come?

(No reply.)

EXCLUSION OF WORKING JOURNALISTS
FROM THE APPLICATION OF AWARD
OF INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL

*116. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial tribunal appointed in connection with the dispute between the employees of Messrs. Bennett Coleman Ltd. and the said Company has excluded the working journalists from the scope of the interim award given by that tribunal;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the said working journalists in the matter; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) According to the interim award, all employees who were in the Company's service on the 31st August 1953 and who were "workmen" for purposes of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, would be entitled to an interim relief. The Tribunal has specifically excluded casual workmen and those who are not workmen from getting the benefit of the interim relief. The award does not seem to be clear on the point whether working journalists are workmen or not.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have been given to understand that the Company is considering extension of the benefits under the award to all the employees affected by the closure irrespective of whether or not they are workmen.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether Government is taking any steps to see that the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act

are extended to give benefit to the working journalists?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir. This is a much larger question and is under the active consideration of Government. About this we had enough of discussion also.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know what is the form of the active consideration?

SHRI ABID ALI: 'Active consideration' is active consideration.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, why an Ordinance could not have been promulgated to extend the benefits of this Act? Now of course Parliament is here but before, at that time when this question was referred to the Industrial Tribunal the House was not in session. In that period two other Ordinances were also promulgated. May I know what prevented Government from doing the same about the working journalists also?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: So far as this matter is concerned, Government took active steps immediately after discussion in the other House. They referred the matter to the authorities running the paper and they have given a promise that what would apply to others before the Tribunal went into the matter would apply to the working journalists. Apart from that, Sir, this is a matter which is now under the active consideration of the Press Commission who are taking evidence. We are also watching their reactions and I can assure this House that we are as anxious to do justice to the working journalists as anybody else.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But does my hon. friend know that the working journalists in question are practically facing starvation in the meantime? They are suffering too much in the meantime.

SHRI ABID ALI: In this particular case, my hon. colleague, the Labour Minister, took personal interest. He contacted the employers and it is

because of his intervention that it has become possible to secure the benefit for all workers.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: It is very good of him but what I want to know is whether the employers have consented to pay compensation to the working journalists.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Notice?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: Yes, Sir.

REFRIGERATION EXPERTS FOR INDIA
UNDER THE TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
AGREEMENT AND NORWEGIAN PROJECT

*117. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of refrigeration experts who have been or are being invited from foreign countries in connection with the fisheries project under the Technical Co-operation Agreement and the Norwegian Project under execution in Travancore-Cochin?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): None.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Have we not entered into an agreement with the T.C.A. for specialists for fisheries and are they not operating in certain sectors in India?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Will the hon. Member please repeat the question?

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, I am repeating it: Is it not a fact that the Government had entered into an agreement with the T.C.A. for development of fisheries and if so was it not stipulated in the agreement that a certain number of experts would be brought to India?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We have entered into an agreement for the development of fisheries but a refrigeration expert will be imported only when there is a need for it. Otherwise, what is the use of importing an expert?

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Therefore, am I to understand that no refrigeration experts have been brought to India?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No, Sir, none has been brought.

REFRIGERATION DIVISION

*118. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had a Refrigeration Division attached to it;

(b) if so, the purposes for which it was created; and

(c) whether the Division is still in existence?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) Yes.

(b) It was created in 1946 to help the disposal of post-war surplus refrigeration plant and machinery and render advice and assistance to private enterprise in the installation of cold storage plants for food preservation.

(c) Yes.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, I could not quite catch the answer. Was this Refrigeration Division created in 1946, simply for the disposal of the refrigerators?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: He is an Indian and he has not been imported. We did not import him.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: That was not my question. I understand the Ministry had a Refrigeration Division, but I could not catch that part of the answer which related to the purpose for which that Division was created.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I cannot understand the hon. Member. Will he please repeat?

MR. CHAIRMAN: In 1946 this Division was created to help in the disposal of post-war surplus refrigeration plant and machinery and render advice and assistance to private enterprise in the installation of cold storage