

COUNCIL OF STATES

Thursday, 11th December 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF DEFENCE SERVICES

*189. SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government have taken to settle the strike of the civilian employees of the Defence Services ;

(b) whether it is a fact that representations have been received by Government to declare the Defence Services as Public Utility Services ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the strike which took place in the Defence establishments in and around Poona and Kirkee during September 1952. The Defence Ministry held meetings with the labour representatives and agreed to give consideration to the demands. Consequently the strike was called off unconditionally and the workers resumed work on the 23rd September 1952.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know what was the demand from the employees ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There were several demands. The important demand was with regard to retrenchment, that there should be consultation with the Union and as far as possible no retrenchment should be ordered.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know what the Government have done with regard to that retrenchment ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Sir, some of the work which was very necessary during the war period was not considered necessary now and therefore the superfluous workers had to be retrenched.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : May I know the total number of labourers who are retrenched under the scheme?

SHRI ABID ALI : That information is not available.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know how many workers are likely to be absorbed in the near future ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There was a question of retrenchment of about 200.

SHRI D. R. DEOGIRIKAR : The Government have promised to absorb them elsewhere. Is it a fact ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir. Government have considered the possibility of re-employing the workers who were superfluous in and around Poona area.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Sir, with regard to part (b) may I know whether Mr. Kulkarni, the Secretary of the Civil Employers Federation has requested the Government to include the Defence Services in Public Utility Services ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : May I know if this strike was a genuine trade union strike or whether there were certain political influences at the back of it ?

(No answer.)

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO AIR TRANSPORT

*190. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state