

Inspector of Factories, Coorg, received a complaint that the Union was collecting money from workers on the pretext that it was required for performing a pooja but actually for enrolling them as members of the Union. He wrote a letter to the Secretaries of the Planters' Associations in the State asking them to caution workers against being misled by such deceptive practices.

(b) Government will examine whether any action is necessary.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know from whom this complaint was received ?

SHRI ABID ALI : It was received by the District Magistrate and the Chief Inspector of Factories. As regards the question from whom, we have no information.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Has the District Magistrate or Chief Inspector of factories conducted any inquiry ? Has he inquired from the Union whether such practices are followed there ?

SHRI ABID ALI : As I have said, we have no further details.

SHRI M. MANJURAN : Is the Minister aware that there are different varieties of Trade Union activities, and that it might have been due to some instigation on the part of one of them that this letter came into the District Magistrate's possession ?

SHRI ABID ALI : We do not believe it to be so.

< SHRI M. MANJURAN : Why was not an inquiry made into the matter ?

SHRI ABID ALI : It must have been made by the District Magistrate and the Chief Inspector of Factories before the instructions were issued.

SHRI M. MANJURAN : Has the Minister any information regarding the inquiry itself ?

SHRI ABID ALI : As I have already said, we have no information here.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister please inquire whether it is a fact or not, and take necessary step? to prevent such interference with trade union activities ?

SHRI ABID ALI : We do not think there was any interference with Trade Union activities. With regard to making further inquiries, we will consider it.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Did not the issue of instructions in this instance amount to interference with trade union activities ?

SHRI ABID ALI : The instructions were not to that effect.

SHRI M. MANJURAN : What is the distinction between persuasion to subscribe to Pooja ceremony and persuasion to subscribe to Trade Union activities ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There is no objection to subscription to pooja fund, but the objection was that there was misrepresentation and therefore the workers were cautioned. That was all.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Is it not a fact that taking advantage of this letter of the District Magistrate the planters as well as the police officials go to the estates and harass the worker? ? Is the Government aware of this ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There was no harassment, so far as our information goes.

SHRI M. MANJURAN : What legal right has the District Magistrate to interfere in this matter ?

SHRI ABID ALI : He should tell the workers if there is misrepresentation.

SHRI M. MANJURAN : Did the District Magistrate take this action under the Trade Union Act ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Not under that Act, but under his powers as a District Magistrate.