

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any scientist from India has been represented in the Advisory Committee consisting of 9 scientists of the world, under the UNESCO?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice of the question. My hon. friend is referring to something which I have not got here.

STATE EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE
SCHEME

*789. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state in how many industrial centres the State Employees Health Insurance Scheme has been introduced up to 31st May, 1953?

(b) What is the total population of workers covered by the scheme so far?

(c) What will be the total population of insurable workers when the whole scheme will be applied in full?

(d) What are the reasons for the delay in the implementation of the full scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) The Scheme has been introduced in Delhi, in the Kanpur area of Uttar Pradesh and in seven industrial areas in Punjab.

(b) 1,56,000 approximately

(c) 2.5 million.

(d) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 21.]

Shri Gidwani: In the statement, the hon. Minister has stated:

"Before the scheme can be extended to any place, the State Government concerned has to make arrangements for medical, surgical and obstetric treatment and has to enter into an agreement with the Corporation regarding the nature and scale of the medical treatment and for the sharing of the cost thereof. State Governments, with their financial

difficulties do not find these responsibilities easy to discharge but they are doing their best to cooperate with the Corporation."

May I know what will be the total share of the cost which each State will have to bear if the scheme is implemented?

Shri Abid Ali: There are two systems: one is the 'Panel' system and the other is the Service system. Under different systems different amounts of contribution by the States are expected. This matter is under negotiation with the State Governments. At present I would not be able to say anything further in the matter.

Shri Gidwani: What was the actual share? On account of paucity of funds or stringency of funds, the State Governments are not able to implement the scheme. I want to know what will be their share: will it be crores or lakhs or hundreds?

Shri Abid Ali: It depends upon the size of the State and also the number of employees in each State. Of course, it will be a very big amount.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is not able to say.

Shri Gidwani: He may say that he is not able to say. That is all right. Is it a fact that the delay was due to the differences between the Labour Secretariat and Dr. Katial, Ex-Director of the Corporation and that his plans were not implemented by the Government as alleged by him?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir.

Shri Muniswamy: The hon. Minister said that such schemes have been introduced in some places. May I know whether there is any proposal to open up such centres throughout the country?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir.

Shri Nanadas: May I know by what time the Government contemplate to bring in all these 2.5 million workers under the scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: As soon as it may be possible. We want to do it early.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: Is it a fact that some of the Doctors in the Punjab have circularised to the Members of the Association of Doctors that they should not join the panel system? May I know what efforts Government is making to win over the Doctors to work for this scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: Formerly there was such a move on the part of the medical profession. But, subsequently they were prevailed upon; an agreement has been entered into and the Doctors are working now.

Shri Gidwani: When was the legislation passed and when was the scheme launched? How many years did it take?

Shri Abid Ali: It was launched in Delhi in 1952.

Shri Gidwani: When was the Act passed? When was the scheme inaugurated?

Shri Abid Ali: The Act was passed in 1948-49. First the scheme was launched in Kanpur and then in Delhi, both in 1952.

RECOGNITION OF WESTERN RAILWAY WORKERS UNION

*790. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Seventh Annual Conference of the Western Railway Workers Union held in Surendranagar (Saurashtra) on the 10th May, 1953, demanded recognition of the Union by the Western Railway authorities as they had already enrolled the required membership for recognition; and

(b) if so, whether the Union had been recognised?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) No. As I have already explained in the House it is not proposed to accord recognition to any Unions other

than those formed in consequence of regrouping by amalgamation with, or of, one or more Unions which are already recognised.

Shri Gidwani: Have not these two Unions combined got the requisite number on their rolls as demanded by the rules?

Shri Alagesan: It has not yet combined with any other Union. It was formed on 7th March, 1952.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government has received any complaint that there has been discrimination in giving recognition to the Unions?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it relate to this Union?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Other Unions also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we generally concerned with this problem here?

Shri Frank Anthony: Am I to understand that the Government policy means that even if a Union attracts a preponderant element of the members in a particular Railway, Government will continue to refuse to recognise that Union?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. Not that way. This has been answered on previous occasions also on the floor of this House. Our policy is not to encourage multiplicity of Unions. Other Unions may amalgamate with the Union that has already been recognised. For instance, in this particular case, this Union has been asked by the former All India Railwaymen Federation to amalgamate with the Employees Association of the Western Railway. When that is done, the question of recognition is automatically solved.

Shri Frank Anthony: Do I take it that however influential a Union may be, if it is not prepared to be coerced into affiliating with the All India Railwaymen's Federation, Government will not recognise it?