

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 30th June, 1952

— — —
The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

MEMBERS SWORN

Dr. C. V. Rama Rao (Kakinada)

Dr. Satyaban Roy (Uluberia)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Bidi FACTORIES**

*1317. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bidi factories in India in 1951-52 both licensed and unlicensed;

(b) whether it is a fact that boys of tender age are being employed in those factories for the manufacture of Bidi;

(c) if so, the number and percentage of boys employed; and

(d) whether any experiment has been made either on Governmental basis or privately to invent any machine for the manufacture of Bidi on the lines of Cigarette manufacture?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Information regarding the number of licensed bidi factories during the year 1951-52 is not available. In 1950, there were 1,708 bidi factories coming under the purview of the Factories Act, 1948. Information regarding unlicensed factories is not available.

(b) Under Section 67 of the Factories Act, 1948, employment of children below 14 years is prohibited in factories coming within its scope and under section 3(3) of the Employment of Children Act, 1938, no child who has not completed his fourteenth year can be employed or permitted to work in

any workshop not covered by the Factories Act wherein *inter alia* the process of bidi-making is carried on. In 1949, it was brought to the notice of Government that children below the prescribed age were being employed in small establishments like bidi-making establishments. At the instance of the Government of India, State Governments issued strict instructions to their Inspectors for rigid enforcement of the Acts. Prosecutions, wherever possible, were launched against the defaulting employers by some state Governments.

(c) Statistics are not available.

(d) The Government have made no such experiment. According to their information, a machine for manufacturing bidis was devised by a certain person of Nasik, who sold it to the New India Machine Works Ltd., Nasik. The machine has not yet been industrially adopted. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to a news item which appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, Delhi, dated the 10th June, 1952, regarding the invention of a bidi-making machine by Shri Kanahaiya Lal Gupta, a municipal commissioner of Banaras.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the unlicensed bidi factories that do not come under the Factories Act, can be controlled in respect of social security measures?

Shri V. V. Giri: They are being controlled to some extent by these Inspectors and I do not know whether they could be controlled for social security measures. I do not understand exactly what the hon. Member means by that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: According to the Factories Act, boys should be engaged for 4½ hours a day and in two shifts. May I know whether that is observed in the factories?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the employment of boys in the ports, for whom the Employment of Children Act, 1938 has been passed, comes under the purview of the Labour Ministry?

Shri V. V. Giri: It does come.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the instructions issued by the States Governments at the instance of the Central Government, which the hon. Minister referred to, are being followed at the present time?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes; they are being implemented.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether the women employed in bidi factories are paid the same rate as men?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am not sure.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government have reviewed the position that the health of these small boys is endangered by working in the bidi factories for more than four hours?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government have not reviewed; I think it can be done.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

TRADE UNIONS

*1318. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) how many Trade Unions of Government of India employees are recognised by the Government of India and what are they;

(b) the names of other Trade Unions and organisations of Government of India employees that exist but are not recognised;

(c) how many strikes were declared by the recognised Trade Unions referred to in part (a) above in the years from 1947-48 to 1951-52 and in which places; and

(d) how those strikes were settled?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI annexure No. 49.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the Statement I find there are so many unrecognised trade unions. May I know whether they had not fulfilled the conditions or whether there are other reasons for their not being recognised?

Shri V. V. Giri: It must be so; or, they have not applied for recognition.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Labour Unions Act of 1934—I am not sure of the year—has been revised or whether the Government propose to revise it?

Shri V. V. Giri: The question of revision is under consideration.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that a condition precedent for the recognition of an Association of Government employees is that the Members therein should be of one "definite class" and if so, what does the present Government mean by a "definite class"?

Shri V. V. Giri: The whole matter is now being considered. We will be able to definitely state our views in the matter very soon.

Shri Punnoose: Is it a fact that these Employees Unions are prohibited or banned from approaching Members of Parliament for the redressal of their grievances?

Shri V. V. Giri: I do not know anything about it. I suppose these Associations may go and represent their grievances: not individual employees.

IMPORT OF USED CARS

*1319. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rules regarding the importation of used cars as personal baggage are uniform for hard and soft currency areas; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Until the beginning of May, the position of imports of cars as personal baggage from the soft currency areas was easy and people were generally allowed to bring cars as baggage. But in regard to cars from hard currency areas the conditions were stringent, namely, that any person who came from the hard currency areas for long stay in the country had to give an undertaking that he will not sell the car within a period of one year and persons who came for short stays gave undertaking to take the cars back. Since May the position in regard to import of cars as personal baggage both from hard and soft currency areas has been equalised and a copy of the press note dated the 29th April 1952 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 50.]