

the hon. Minister whether in addition to financial aid or loans for reconstruction work, they have also demanded some technicians and engineers and others in place of those who were liquidated during the Bangla Desh struggle, and if so, whether Government are going to send some good engineers, scientists and technicians on loan to work for the reconstruction of Bangla Desh.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There will not be any difficulty in sending technical personnel including engineers to Bangla Desh. I am not aware if they have made any firm demand; if they do, we shall certainly be able to depute engineers to help them in the reconstruction work.

With regard to assistance in terms of money or material, some of the assistance that has already been extended is meant for that purpose, and we can have a second look at it after some time

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी मन्त्री जी ने ठीक कहा कि जो बंगला देश का नुकसान हुआ है उसका अन्दाजा लगाना मुश्किल है लेकिन क्या भारत सरकार, जो नुकसान हुआ है उसकी भरपाई पाकिस्तान से की जाये इस बारे में बंगला देश की कोई मदद करेगी ? क्या पाकिस्तान के साथ जब बातचीत होगी तो इस मामले को भी उठाया जायेगा ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It will be for the representatives and Government of Bangla Desh to take this matter up with the Pakistan authorities.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : In view of the fact that jute and tea are the commodities in which the common interests of India and Bangla Desh are involved, and these are the two foreign-exchange earners for Bangla Desh and we have a common market also, may I know whether Government would try to evolve a common policy for jute and tea in the international world both for India and for Bangla Desh ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is a suggestion for action. I shall pass it on to the Minister of Foreign Trade.

Bi-Partite Meeting regarding Reforms of Industrial Relations Law

*203. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**
SHRI RAMKANWAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had a meeting recently with representatives of three major Trade Unions in the country seeking reforms of the Industrial Relations Law;

(b) if so, the main suggestions made by the three Labour Unions in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) (a) to (c). The workers' representatives apprised the Union Labour Minister, of the result of their discussions and the limited accord reached on questions relating to trade union recognition, the role of collective bargaining in the industrial relations system, right to strike etc. These representatives of INTUC, the AITUC and the HMS have yet to communicate their final agreed proposals for discussion at the next meeting of the Working Party of Employers and Workers to be convened for the purpose shortly.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : May I know whether any suggestion was made by Government regarding a three-year moratorium on strikes and lock-outs, and if so, the views expressed by the unions and the Government's reactions thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R.K. KHADILKAR) : Yes, it is a fact that the President of India first made a suggestion publicly that there should be a moratorium on strikes and lock-outs. Later on, the Prime Minister reiterated the same thing. The

suggestion was made with a view to creating a climate of industrial peace. There was no question of banning the strike as such. Keeping that in view, we have initiated talks with the three national central organisations to find out a minimum agreement so that a climate of industrial peace could be maintained and production kept at the optimum level.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : He simply mentioned about the suggestion whereas I specifically asked about the views expressed by the Unions to the suggestion.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Some Union spokesmen unfortunately have sometimes, not always, not properly understood the significance of this suggestion. They thought it was intended to curtail the right to strike. That was not the intention either when the President made the suggestion or when the Prime Minister reiterated it. The intention was not to deprive the working class of their right, but there was more to it than that, an appeal to see that the right to strike is not exercised during this period, as far as possible.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Is it a fact that the Union Labour Minister has come to the conclusion that the experiment of workers' participation in management has been unsuccessful because of the caste system still remaining the rule within the management structure itself, whether in the private sector or in the public sector? What are the grounds for coming to this conclusion, and is any action being proposed to remove this prevailing condition which is detrimental to the interests of the workers?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I made that statement. Our desire that workers should actually participate in management has not evoked that response that we expected. There are certain defects prevailing in the management structure. I referred to a type of caste system prevailing there. Because of that, workers are not treated on par nor are encouraged to participate in the solution of problems facing managements.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Is any action being proposed to remove this condition?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : We will create that climate. The managements will have to be reoriented, keeping in view the broad social objectives. When we say that the workers should participate in managements, they must feel involved in the process of production.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Have Government considered this that a moratorium on strikes must be preceded by a moratorium on prices and profit? If so, what is their reaction to that?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : No doubt, it is incumbent on Government to see to that. The price rise is to be kept in check; that aim is also simultaneously being pursued.

SHRI DINI N BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, whatever terminology you may suggest—moratorium or any other thing—it is ultimately a ban on strikes. Before doing that, I want to know whether it is in the knowledge of the Labour Minister that long back, a suggestion was made by the National Labour Conference where the central trade unions met together and suggested a national minimum wage for the workers throughout India. May I know whether that has been achieved, while putting this suggestion of moratorium or ban on strikes? May I know whether the Government is ready to consider this aspect?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I am sorry the hon. Member has misconstrued this ban-on-strike appeal. There is no question of moratorium on strike. There is no question of ban on strikes as such. As I said earlier, the appeal is intended to create a peaceful climate in industries in respect of management and labour relations.

So far as the other part of the question is concerned, every effort is being made, keeping in view the economic development, to reach the objective that was placed before us by all the trade unions in the country.

SHRI K. GOPAL : Today there are many industries in the country where no union has been recognised. In view of this, will the hon. Minister tell us whether he

proposes to make any reforms in the industrial relations law to the effect that one union or the other in every industry should be recognised? For example, there are many unions in the Central Government undertakings where no union has been recognised. I quote an example: in the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi, where over 3,000 workers are employed, no union has been recognised. Will the hon. Minister tell us whether he will see that one union or the other will be recognised in each industry?

SHRI R.K. KHADIKAR : The purpose of initiating discussions with the employers and the Central trade union organisations was to find a way to recognise and determine the bargaining agent. As the hon. Member has suggested, there is a certain amount of rivalry in trade unions. Small trade unions, mushroom trade unions, crop up without much backing. In a situation like this, as he has suggested, our efforts are directed to see that a representative union in every industry is given recognition forthwith.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : While appreciating the sentiments for maintaining industrial peace at the optimum level, may I know whether it is a fact that keeping this aim in view, the present Labour Minister, Shri Khadikar, in a signed letter had appealed to the railway employees to collaborate this time, and they appreciated this appeal and called off the strike on the assurance that there would not be any victimisation? But may I also know whether in violation of that assurance, about 4,500 employees have been victimised and more than 25 workers have been suspended since the last 13 months, and whether he has taken any action to instil confidence among the workers? (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are going out of the question. It does not arise out of this.

SHRI VASANTRAO PURUSHOTTAM SATHE : Since the appeal for a moratorium on strikes has received a favourable response, will the Government kindly consider the reform of industrial relations

law, so as to have an early and expeditious settlement of industrial disputes which today are actually hampering industrial relations and encouraging people to go on the streets on strike? Will the Government consider expeditious steps for making suitable reforms in the industrial relations law and the unification and codification of the law at the Centre? There is chaos today in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Do not enter into arguments, after putting the question.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The hon. Member has correctly pointed out the prevailing situation. Whatever be the machinery, industrial disputes are not settled expeditiously. Therefore we have initiated some steps so that the three national organisations as well as employers could meet as a working party and give their concurrence regarding certain proposals or certain suggestions and recommendations made by the National Labour Commission about the machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes. I can assure the House that if by any chance a settlement is not reached the Government will not wait indefinitely to take expeditious steps to see that some machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes is set in motion.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय यूनियज को मान्यता देने के जो भंगडे होते है उन को ले कर ज्यादा तर विवाद खडे होते है। मान्यता देने में काफी बिलम्ब भी होता है। केन्द्र की शर्तें पूरी करने के बाद भी केन्द्र ने भारतीय मजदूर संघ को मान्यता नहीं दी है। क्या आप उसको मान्यता देने का विचार रखते है? आपने कहा है कि तीन राष्ट्रीय मजदूर संगठन इस पर विचार कर रहे है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इन तीन राष्ट्रीय मजदूर संगठनों में भारतीय मजदूर संघ आता है या नहीं आता है?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The hon. Member is right so far as the present situation is concerned. There is, as I said

earlier, some machinery and some law that could be enforced to give recognition to unions which have representative character. There are disputes because of intra-union rivalry and inter-union rivalry. The union referred to by the hon. Member, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, claim to be an all-India organisation. We shall consider it when the next verification will be made. We are proceeding on the verification of 1968, and at that time the BMS was not qualified for recognition at all-India level. If they qualify, we shall of course consider them.

श्री सुकन चन्म कछवाय : अभी जाच हुई है। 1971 में जाच हुई है। आपको पता ही नहीं है उसके बारे में ?

SARI M. RAJANGAM : How far is it possible to introduce the idea of our President : one union for one industry ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I said, if the Central trade union organisation and the employees reach some agreement, then alone the Government would be able to modify the present industrial disputes law, so that one union will be a representative union recognised by the industry. That will be a very healthy development indeed.

Indo-West German Talks

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*205. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether annual Indo-West German talks were held on the 20th January, 1972 in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the subjects discussed thereat ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The annual Indo-FRG talks were held in New Delhi on the 20th and 21st January, 1972.

(b) The consultations covered a wide range of subjects, including the world situa-

tion, European political perspectives, the situation in the Indian sub-continent and in Asia, and Indo-FRG bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields. Such bilateral consultations are confidential in nature and it is not customary to disclose the details of the discussions.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : May I know whether, during the course of these bilateral talks at any time, the question of according full diplomatic recognition to the East German Government came up, and if so, as the West German Government under the leadership of Mr. Brandt is trying to have a detente in Europe and trying to have bilateral talks with the Government of GDR, whether there was any kind of suggestion that after agreement is reached between the two German Governments, they would like India to recognise the East German Government ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The situation in relation to the two German States was broadly discussed. Any decision that we might take at any stage to raise the level of our representation in GDR will be our own national decision, and this matter was not discussed in the form in which the hon. Member has suggested.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the hon. Minister let us know whether, when this question of political developments in this sub-continent was taken into consideration, the matter of West German aid to Pakistan also came up, and may I know whether the West German Government which had stopped aid to Pakistan at the time of the Indo-Pak conflict will continue that attitude or change it towards Pakistan ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is a fact which is known to the hon. Member and the House that economic aid was stopped by the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan at the time of Indo-Pakistan conflict. Now that the conflict is over, many countries are thinking of resuming economic aid to Pakistan. I cannot specifically say if FRG has taken a similar decision.