

Shri Ansar Harvani: They can provide the technical know how.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member might put the question. Some hon. Members have not followed what his question was; I have also not followed what he said.

Shri Ansar Harvani: My question was this: whether the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting proposed to seek the help and aid of the film industry in Bombay for the Bombay television project.

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: If necessary, we shall explore all the possibilities of utilising the services of the film industry also.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस वक्त टेलि-विज़न सेट अधिक महंगा है। क्या कोई सस्ता टैलिविज़न सेट तैयार करने का प्रयत्न किया जायेगा, ताकि वह साधारण लोगों को उपलब्ध हो सके ?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: Perhaps the Minister of Commerce and Industry will be able to answer that question.

Shri Nath Pai: I do not know if he will take the same shelter which he took in reply to the same question put by my hon. friend, Shri Raghunath Singh. I want to know the same thing: is any plan under consideration of the Government to start production of television sets in the country. Do they propose to import them and, if so, at what cost and what is the foreign exchange?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): As the demand for television sets has been limited, as I had mentioned in the House earlier, there is no programme of manufacture of television sets in the country.

Shri Prabhat Kar: What is the foreign exchange component for the establishment of television here?

Dr. B. Gopala Reddi: It is Rs. 28.17 lakhs.

Code of Discipline

***137, Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether code of discipline has been accepted by Railways, P. & T., Defence and other Central Government undertakings; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Railways do not consider it necessary to adopt the Code on the ground that an established machinery for resolving disputes etc. is already functioning on the Railways satisfactorily. In Defence undertakings, the question of adoption of the Code is being pursued in consultation with workers' representatives. The Code applies to all other Central Government departmental undertakings covered under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. In the case of P. & T. it applies to industrial establishments like workshops, wireless stations, stores etc.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any difficulty has been experienced in adopting this code in the defence establishments, and whether they have put forward any difficulties and if, so, what are those difficulties?

Shri Hathi: As I said in reply to the original question, the Defence Ministry is negotiating with the workers; they are pursuing the question of adopting the code.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this code of discipline will be implemented in the public sector undertakings like the various corporations, the Heavy Electricals and others?

Shri Hathi: Yes; it will be.

Shri Daji: I would like to know what the views of the Railway Ministry are, with reference to the views of the Labour Ministry, because it has been clearly laid down by the Labour

Ministry that the code should be immediately implemented by the railways and defence.

Shri Hathi: The matter is being discussed with the Railway Ministry also, but the Railway Ministry thinks that it has a machinery which would be sufficient and adequate and that it has a code of rules also. But still the Labour Ministry is pursuing the matter with the Railway Ministry.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether it is a fact that the LIC and the Reserve Bank have proposed an amendment to the code of discipline and have pressed their views on the Government, and that is why they have not accepted the code of discipline?

Shri Hathi: No; I do not think so.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Do I take it that the Government are not aware of it?

Shri Hathi: It is not a question of amending. There are certain suggestions, of course.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I know what is the machinery laid down in lieu of the one which was just mentioned by the hon. Minister of Railways, and may I know whether the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the respective unions of each zonal railway have been consulted before implementing or discussing the good sides and the bad sides of the code of discipline?

Shri Hathi: That was one of the reasons why the railwaymen have not adopted it. They have said that the workers' associations were parties while this code was being formulated and that therefore they wanted to consult them also.

Shri Priya Gupta: The first part of my question has not been replied. The question was, what is the machinery laid down in the railways.

Shri Hathi: There is a three-tier machinery for settling disputes.

Shri Priya Gupta: What is the third tier? The tribunal which is the

third tier does not function; it has never functioned.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Before formulating this code of discipline which was adopted in the tripartite labour conference about two years ago, had not the Labour Ministry consulted the other employing Ministries, and what were their reactions, and without their consent, how could this be formulated?

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda): This code of discipline was evolved mainly in consultation with the representatives of the working class, organised in various bodies, and the representatives of the employers. Of course, there was some consultation with the representatives of the public sector also. They are usually present at the time of these meetings. But later on there was a conference in which all the representatives of the public sector undertaking were present and it was definitely accepted by all of them. The only remaining sectors were Defence and Railways. As my colleague has pointed out, the information given was that the workers were then satisfied with the machinery which is functioning there now. Now, in several conferences I asked the representatives of the employees to tell us if they were not satisfied. I have been told by some of them that they would like to go over to the code of discipline and, therefore, it is being taken up.

Shri K. N. Pande: Is it a fact that the Railway employees are also not in favour of adopting the code of discipline in the Railways?

Shri Nanda: As far as my knowledge is concerned, such of them as have approached me have expressed their preference for the code of discipline.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question—Shri Moshin.

Shri Moshin: Question No. 138.

Shri Priya Gupta: Sir, have you gone over to the next question?

Mr. Speaker: I have and the hon. Member has put it.

Price Line

*138. { Shri Mohsin:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:—

(a) the further steps that are being taken to hold the price line; and

(b) whether prices of essential commodities have gone up since January, 1962?

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The price situation over the last one year has been well under control. The general index of wholesale prices for March 1962 was 3.1 per cent lower than the March 1961 level. Between January 1962 and March 10, 1962, there was some increase in wholesale prices of certain essential commodities such as food articles and cotton textiles. But thereafter there has been a decline. The food articles index declined from 120.9 on March 10, 1962 to 118.4 by the end of March. The index for cotton textiles declined from 128.5 to 128.1 in the same period.

For augmenting domestic supplies of cotton, the Government has already taken steps to import larger quantities of the required variety. As regards cereals, adequate stock are held by Government so that releases can be increased if the situation warrants.

The measures and policies adopted for increasing production and holding the price line have proved generally adequate. The situation is being kept under constant review.

Shri Mohsin: Is it not a fact that under the present cost of living, the

present price line, it is difficult for an average wage-earner of India to have even on meal a day?

Shri Nanda: No, Sir.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the statement it is written: "Measures and policies adopted for increasing production and holding the price line have proved generally adequate. The situation is being kept under constant review". I want to know, since the prices have increased, have shown an upward trend from January to March, whether Government contemplate to have any definite price policy and appoint a Price Commission for it?

Shri Nanda: The price policy has been clearly laid down in the document relating to the Third Five Year Plan, and as has been indicated in the statement in the course of this year there has been a decline of 3.1 per cent in the wholesale prices. Therefore, that question does not arise.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether there is a special cell in the Planning Commission in regard to price line to watch the price line position; if so, whether that cell is effective to control and watch the price situation?

Shri Nanda: There is a whole division which is called the Economic Division which concerns itself with price movements, and the Planning Commission as a whole has to consider all the aspects which have a bearing on the price level.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Are the Government aware of the fact that yesterday's taxation proposals will raise up the cost of living; if so, may I know what are the actions proposed to be taken by the Government?

Shri Nanda: I have not had enough time to calculate precisely whether it will be 0.1 per cent or something less than that. But it is going to be very insignificant as far as I can judge.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: In view of the fact that the prices of foodstuffs have shown a tendency of