

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether the Government proposes to include public motor transport industry also in the wage board supposed to be appointed for the different industries?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Not at present

**Shri Tangamani:** In view of the fact that a Wage Board has been set up for the textile industry, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of appointing a Wage Board for the road transport industry also?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It is not necessary at this moment

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether a Tripartite Wage Board is likely to be set up for the leather workers?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The representatives of a union suggested to include that also in the list, but it was not agreed to by the Conference as such

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether any list has been drawn up of the industries for which Wage Boards have to be set up and, if so, whether the road transport industry finds a place in that list?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Wage Board for cotton textile industry has been set up. The question of setting up Wage Boards for sugar and cement is under consideration. No other list has been prepared at present

**Shri Ranga:** Was this question considered by the Labour Conference? What is the usual practice? May I know whether such things are taken up by Government after they are discussed by the Labour Conference?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Yes, Sir, they are taken up after they are considered by the Labour Conference

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know what principles are followed in deciding as to for which industries Wage Boards will be appointed and for which industries they will not be appointed?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Firstly, where minimum wages are not applicable they are considered. Then, the capacity of the industry to pay, other service conditions and the wages of the workers are also considered

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether in the Memorandum submitted by the National Federation of Road Transport workers this point has been raised and, if so, what action the Government has taken?

**Shri Abid Ali:** I have not seen that Memorandum

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** It is in your waste paper basket, search for it

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know the total number of workers employed in motor transport industry in the country, and whether minimum wage has been fixed for these workers throughout the country?

**Shri Abid Ali:** About 80,000 workers are employed and minimum wages have been fixed for most of the workers in this industry

#### Indian Nationals in Pakistan

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\*254 { Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:  
Shri Panigrahi:  
Shri Radha Raman:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that the Government of Pakistan have decided to issue an ordinance restricting Indian Nationals residing in Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Yes, Sir. An Ordinance has been promulgated amending the Registration of Foreigners Act of 1939 and the Foreigners Act of 1946. Our present knowledge of its contents is derived from accounts appearing in the Pakistan Press. The authorised text is awaited.

**Shri Kaaliwal:** It seems to be the claim of Pakistan that, because India

is supposed to have taken certain steps regarding Pakistani nationals resident in India Pakistan has taken this step by way of reciprocity. May I know how far the claim of Pakistan is justifiable?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** First of all, I should not like to express an opinion till we have examined the authorised text of these things but, *prima facie* I think that the criticism made in the Pakistan Press of some action we have taken must have been due to some misunderstanding, because we took no action except to register the Pakistani nationals, give them an opportunity of registration here so as to avoid difficulties which sometimes arise. It is not an action against Pakistanis as such, and the action they have taken apparently goes much further.

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि चन्द महीने पहले पाकिस्तानी नेशनल जो यहाँ काम करते हैं उनके ठहरने की प्रवधि बढ़ा दी गई है और प्रवधि अधिक दिन यहाँ ठहर सकते हैं ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : उनको रजिस्टर होने के लिये शायद ३० सितम्बर तक का वक्त दिया गया है ।

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if a Minister of the East Bengal Government gave a sort of public threat that in view of certain steps alleged to be contemplated by the Government of India they would take certain steps against Indian nationals in Pakistan?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I believe, Sir, that some rather intemperate speech was delivered.

**Shri Bimal Ghose:** I should like to know if any such proposed Ordinance would not be against the spirit of some of the provisions of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** As I said, we should like to see the Ordinance

itself before expressing an opinion about it. It may well be what the hon. Member thinks.

#### Purchase of Foreign Goods for Government Stationery Deptt.

\*255. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether the Supply Department are purchasing foreign goods for the stationery department and for various offices of the Government of India though Indian goods are available?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy):** No, Sir, unless for reasons of extreme urgency or where unreasonably high prices are quoted by the indigenous manufacturers.

**Shri Assar:** May I know the amount that has been spent on the purchase of stationery goods?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I have got the figures here for 1955-56. The total value of stationery purchased was Rs 3,12,00,000 and the value of stationery goods imported was Rs 9,93,087, roughly about 2.58 per cent.

**Shri Goray:** What sort of foreign goods were purchased?

**Shri Assar:** In view of the foreign exchange position and nation-wide austerity drive, may I know whether the Government will stop these purchases altogether?

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** I could not follow the question, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** In view of the foreign exchange position the hon. Member suggests that steps may be taken not to import any quantity from anywhere.

**Shri K. C. Reddy:** This matter is receiving constant attention of the Government. In fact, the policy of the Government is not to purchase imported goods wherever such stores are available from indigenous sources.