

letter to the New York Times and the Pakistan High Commissioner wrote a reply to that letter in the New York Times. I think it was the Pakistan Foreign Minister. In the course of the reply he vaguely said, 'Well, why should not India and Pakistan disarm?' and further added that Pakistan has, of course, a heavy responsibility because it has to look after various frontiers in the North-West etc. We have received no proposal to consider. Obviously, a proposal to disarm is something different from a 'No War' proposal.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: As they do not know what value to attach to such Pakistani propaganda stunts and in view of their evil effects in the foreign press, may I know if the Government of India has taken or proposes to take any action to dispel any misunderstanding because no disarmament can be considered in view of its adherence to SEATO and other military pacts?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are things done from day to day. There is no such importance attached to a letter in the New York Times which has suddenly galvanised the Government of India into doing something particular. It is a vague statement made by the Foreign Minister. Generally I recognise what the hon. Member says. The Government of India or the External Affairs Ministry should be wide awake and should take steps to enlighten people so that they may not be misled by such statement.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it not true that since the time of the visit of Liaqat Ali Khan to India, the Government of India has made repeated offers to enter into a No-war declaration with Pakistan and Pakistan has not seriously considered it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is completely right as he sometimes is.

Shri Hem Barua: It is not only a question of a letter appearing in the New York Times. In view of the systematic and slanderous propaganda

made against this country with a view to dub India as a country with belligerent aims, what steps have been taken so far to counteract this propaganda by Pakistan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the hon. Member means by specific steps. We have answered such questions repeatedly and I need hardly enumerate. There are many steps which the hon. Member should know. The normal steps are taken: publicity pamphlets, newspapers. May be, they are not quite adequate. We will try to improve them.

Bonus of Industrial Labourers

*256. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been studying the scheme of crediting bonus of industrial labourers to their Provident Fund Account or placing under the National Savings Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been finalised; and

(c) the saving to the National Exchequer under the scheme during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) At the meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held in October 1957 a decision was taken to the effect that in the case of workers drawing more than Rs. 75 per month and who receive annual bonus exceeding Rs. 75 or one month's wages whichever is higher, half of the amount in excess thereof should be credited to their provident fund account.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the industries brought under this scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: This applies to everyone who comes under this category.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the State Governments have accepted the recommendations of the Labour Advisory Committee—namely, payment of half the bonus, if the amount exceeds Rs. 75? May I also

know whether the Madras State advisory committee has suggested three months' bonus instead of Rs. 75?

Shri Abid Ali: This recommendation was communicated to the State Governments on 28th October 1957 and their reactions are awaited. With regard to the latter part of the question, I require notice.

Shri Anthony Pillai: A certain part of the bonus should be paid to the provident fund but it is to be a voluntary offer made by the worker concerned. Is the Government considering the possibility of introducing legislation to make it compulsory and if so, will it first of all be referred to the trade union organisations before being introduced here?

Shri Abid Ali: The workers' representatives were very much vehement that there should not be any legislative compulsion and that it should be left to the voluntary will of the workers.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Before deciding upon taking part of the bonus as compulsory saving, may I know whether.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That question was specifically asked and he said that the representatives of the workers were against it. So, there is no compulsory saving. It is out of question.

Shri Tangamani: The only point is whether it is compulsory or voluntary.

Mr. Speaker: It is only voluntary and not compulsory.

Uranium

*257. **Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what is being done with the residue containing uranium in the Thorium Plant at Trombay; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to isolate uranium from this residue?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The residue containing

uranium is recovered as a concentrate and stored.

(b) A plant to produce atomically pure uranium metal is under construction at Trombay|Bombay and is scheduled to be completed by the middle of 1958.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: Will the uranium that will be isolated be useful for the Canada-India reactor which is coming up very fast and if so will this plant be starting in time to be of use to the atomic reactor?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I take it that it will certainly be useful and utilised in the Canada-India reactor. But, I do not think that we shall be producing enough uranium to begin with for that purpose. I am not quite sure but I believe for some little time we shall have to get it from outside till we begin producing enough.

Shri S. V. Ramaswami: It has been reported that we are shortly going to have an atomic power plant. Will the uranium isolated now be useful for that power plant also?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Whatever uranium is there, if there is uranium, it is useful for this purpose. But this talk of power plant does not mean that we are going to have it soon. It will take several years. Maybe—I do not know—five years or so. By that time, we shall no doubt be producing much more uranium.

Villiers Colliery, Talchar

*258. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Villiers Colliery, Talchar, has violated provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, Mines Act and the award of the All India Industrial Tribunal;

(b) whether this matter has been brought to the notice of Government by the local labourers; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure the implementation of all labour laws in this mine?