

fixing minimum wages in the 15th Indian Labour Conference?

Shri Abid Ali: The latter part of the question I did not hear.

Shri Tangamani: The method by which the minimum wages have to be adopted has been discussed and finalised at the 15th Indian Labour Conference. May I know whether those recommendations had been communicated to the revision committee when they were actually sitting for the purpose of revising the minimum wages for construction workers?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, they will take these recommendations into consideration.

Shri Tyagi: Have the Government considered or examined the rational method of fixing work-day units and paying higher rates of wages for work done over and above the daily norms for each worker?

Shri Abid Ali: Wherever the piece rate system is prevalent, this is taken into consideration.

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): In addition to piece rate, there are incentive systems of payment which take that into account.

Conference on the Law of Seas

*2045. { **Shri Kumaran:**
 { **Shri N. R. Munisamy.**

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India participated in the Conference on the Law of Seas held in March, 1958; and

(b) what were the decisions and recommendations of the Conference?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The full report on this conference is not yet available. However, the conference failed in its main objective to draw up a convention on the Law of the Sea mainly because it could not arrive at the necessary agreement on the breadth of territorial waters. It was, therefore, recommended that the United Nations General Assembly should consider what the next step should be. There was agreement on various other aspects of the Laws of the Sea such as the Continental Shelf and the exploitation of its natural resources, conservation of fisheries, right of innocent passage of ships.

The Conference adopted a resolution for encouraging cooperation on conservation and on the human killing of marine life.

Another resolution, moved by India, was also adopted recommending that the question of banning and testing of nuclear weapons on the high seas should be considered by the General Assembly.

Shri Kumaran: May I know whether the conference was in any way helpful in resolving the differences existing between India and her neighbours regarding territorial waters and deep sea fishing rights?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Between India and what country?

Shri Kumaran: Between India and her neighbour, especially Ceylon.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I suggest that my colleague, the Law Minister, who was the leader of the delegation, might answer that question?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): I am very happy to say that the Ceylonese delegation and the Indian delegation worked in complete harmony, and no disputes were ever raised by either party.

Shri Kumaran: May I know whether it is a fact that the representative

of Pakistan raised the issue of a corridor across Indian territory connecting the two wings of Pakistan and that he was able to canvass support among some powers represented at the conference?

Mr. Speaker: Is it a conference on land dispute or sea dispute?

Shri Kumaran: But it was raised.

Mr. Speaker: Let it be raised. I am not going to allow. How does it arise out of this question? Hon. Members must address themselves to the question here. A thousand things may occur: it will not be allowed here.

Shri Bimal Ghose: In the conference on the law of the seas, something else was done. It is about the conference, not about anything else.

Shri Kumaran: This issue was raised in the conference.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether the Government of India participated in the Conference on the Law of Seas held in March, 1958. This is a conference on the law of the seas, how far the territorial waters will extend, six miles, 100 miles or 200 miles. Then, how does the corridor come in? I am not going to allow. That was irrelevant in this conference. I was not the President of that conference, I could not command the deletion of all that. If I were there, I would have expunged all that. (Laughter).

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether the question of free entry into the sea by land-locked countries was taken into consideration, and if so with what result?

Shri A. K. Sen: There was a resolution passed by the Fifth Committee on land-locked countries and their rights of access to the sea as also the right of transit of goods over the territories of their neighbours. The point of view of India was very ably expressed by our representative in the Fifth Committee, and I myself took part in one or two meetings to let the Committee know our point of view in the matter. I am happy

to say that the resolution which was ultimately accepted with hardly any opposition was a Swiss resolution accepting our point of view. The resolution completely met our stand in the matter.

Shri Kumaran: May I know whether the question of pollution of sea waters by nuclear test explosions was raised at the conference and any decision taken thereon?

Shri A. K. Sen: It was raised and India did sponsor a resolution prohibiting the pollution of seas either by radio-active rays or otherwise. As far as the idea was concerned, we got a good deal of support in the matter, but the resolution was lost in the Committee only by one vote. I speak subject to correction because the final report has not come yet, but my recollection is that it was lost by one vote. Nevertheless, after this resolution was lost, an amended resolution was accepted which to a very large extent met the point of view of India as also other countries sharing the view that the high seas should not be polluted by radio-active rays.

Pakistan's letter to U.N. on Kashmir

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2046. { **Shri Bhogji Bhai:**
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Short Notice Question No. 12 on the 7th April, 1958 and state whether Government have since received the authorised text of the letter written by the Pakistan Representative at U.N.O. regarding certain administrative measures taken by India in Kashmir?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Yes, Sir. An authorised copy of the letter in question has been received in circulation and copies of letters to the Security Council are placed on the table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 139.]