

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Has the attention of Government been drawn to Press reports which stated that differences have arisen between the West Bengal Government and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation regarding the construction of separate hospitals for workers covered by the Employees' State Insurance Scheme and that the differences, in particular, were to the effect that the West Bengal Government was against the construction of separate hospitals on the ground that such hospitals would provide for a much better standard of treatment for insured workers, and as a result, it would breed discontent among certain sections of the people who would not get the same facilities? If so, have such reports been contradicted?

Shri Abid Ali: As far as my knowledge goes, no such report has appeared in the Press—it may have appeared but I have not seen; that is what I mean. So far as the latter part of the question is concerned, it is true that the State Government preferred reservation of beds in hospitals near the factories and workers' residences to the construction of independent hospitals for them.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether any solution has been reached about this difference—between the State Government preferring the reservation of beds and the State Insurance Corporation preferring separate hospitals?

Shri Abid Ali: The matter is under discussion with the State Government and a committee has also been appointed by the Corporation to settle this matter in consultation with the Bengal Government and other Governments also.

Shri Tangamani: May I know if any representation has been received from the people working in the different organisations about reduction of contribution from the workers for these hospital facilities and, if so, whether any action has been taken?

Shri Abid Ali: I did not follow.

Mr. Speaker: Generally from all workers and not particularly from the State Insurance Corporation, West Bengal.

Shri Tangamani: From West Bengal, I mean to ask whether the West Bengal Trade Union Congress made any representation about the inadequate hospital facilities.

Mr. Speaker: We are concerned with the State Insurance Corporation.

Shri Tangamani: I am referring to the State Insurance Corporation. There is to be a contribution from the workers also. Has any representation been made either from the West Bengal Trade Union organisations or from the All India Trade Union organisations about the reduction of the contribution from the workers?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir; some representations were received and these were considered and it was decided that the contributions of the workers also should come.

Trade Delegations

*117. **Shri H. C. Mathur:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how many trade delegations have visited this country during the last six months;

(b) agreements, if any, reached at Government level;

(c) the main suggestions for the promotion of trade; and

(d) whether Government propose to send or sponsor any trade delegations abroad during 1957-58?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 32]

(d) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to send a Trade Delegation to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Shri H. C. Mathur: May I know whether the question of foreign exchange and the question of deferred payment was discussed and, if so, with what result in respect of each country with which we had reached agreements?

Shri Kanungo: Agreements were reached with three countries alone and the question of deferred payment was not under consideration.

Shri H. C. Mathur: Which are those three countries with which agreements have been reached; and what are the agreements?

Shri Kanungo: The countries are, Pakistan, Sweden and Egypt; and I believe the agreements have been placed before the House.

Shri Ranga: What is the general practice here; whether the Government make any arrangements to help the representatives of Indian trade to meet these delegations when they come over here to this country?

Shri Kanungo: Always we try to put them in touch with the Trade Associations and Chambers of Commerce and others.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In answer to (d), the hon. Minister said that they are proposing to send a Trade Delegation to West Germany. May I know whether that Delegation is going with a definite plan to discuss with West Germany or is it for just trade relationship they are going?

Shri Kanungo: The Delegation is being organised by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of India and Government is sponsoring it. It is more in an exploratory nature; and they will visit West Germany along with other countries to which they may be invited.

Shri H. C. Mathur: Which of the suggestions enumerated in the answer have been accepted by the Government and what does the Government propose to do in the matter?

Shri Kanungo: The sending of Trade Delegations to various countries is

always under consideration, subject to the availability of funds.

Shri H. C. Mathur: If you refer to the answer to (c), it is said that certain suggestions have been made by these delegations. I ask which of these suggestions have been accepted by the Government of India and how it is proposed to implement them.

Shri Kanungo: Part (c) says that these suggestions were discussed with these delegations. They relate to facilitating direct contact between trading partners, strengthening of commercial representation and organisation of publicity of Indian goods through advertisement, exhibitions and all that. In that way we try to do what is in our means.

गोआ में भारतीय राजनैतिक कैदी

* ११८. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या प्रवाल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस समय गोआ जेल में कितने राजनैतिक कैदी हैं और कितने, यदि कोई हों, तो, जेल में ही मर गये ?

वैदेशिक कार्य उपमंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेनन) : गोआ की जेलों में इस समय कितने राजनैतिक कैदी हैं, इसकी निश्चित सूचना नहीं है। अनुमान है कि कम से कम तीन सौ राजनैतिक कैदी वहां जेल में हैं। इनमें से सात भारतीय राजनैतिक कैदी हैं।

भारत सरकार इस बात की सूचना नहीं दे सकती कि गोआ की जेलों में कितने राजनैतिक कैदियों की मृत्यु हुई है।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I request that this may be read in English also?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No definite information is available regarding political prisoners in Goa. The Government of India believe that there are at least three hundred political prisoners in Goan jails. Among