

the drafting stage and will be introduced in the Parliament as soon as possible.

### Short Notice Question and Answer

#### ALL-INDIA INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL (BANK DISPUTES) AWARD

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government examined the second All-India Industrial Tribunal (Bank Disputes) Award published on the 23rd April, 1953;

(b) whether reaction to the Award of the various Bank employees' unions have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) whether Government propose to intervene by legislation or otherwise in matters of the Award affecting adversely the service conditions of the employees?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Government have examined the more important portions of the Award.

(b) A number of unions have sent resolutions or letters protesting in general terms against the Award.

(c) No. Government, however, understand that the parties have a right of appeal to the Appellate Tribunal in respect of certain important matters.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know how many Banks and how many Bank employees are affected by the Award? Is it a fact that 93 Banks and 51,513 employees are involved in the Award?

**Shri Abid Ali:** All these details are mentioned in the Award which has already been circulated.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether Government has compared the main features of the Award with the Award of the Tribunal presided over by Justice Mr. Sen which was declared by the Supreme Court to be void for want of jurisdiction? If so, how do the two awards compare?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The hon. Member can ascertain the differences by making a reference to the relevant portions in the Award. All these are mentioned in the Award.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I know whether attempts were made by Bank

Employees' Unions and Federations to have the Sen Award legalised by legislation before the matter was referred to the Shastri Tribunal?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Perhaps, the hon. Member may be aware that when the Sen Award was published, these very persons who are now angry with the Shastri Award, almost in the same terms condemned the Sen Award. Then, subsequently, the matter went before the Supreme Court and the award was vitiated. Now it should not be open to them to say that the Sen Award was better than this Award.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May we know whether the Government have ascertained the variations in the objective conditions which led to two different and diverse Awards within such a short time?

**Shri Abid Ali:** All this information is available in the Award. Members can read it and have their own opinion.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know, Sir, whether any representation has been sent by Bank employees that this Award is worse than the Sen Award?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Many Resolutions have been passed by Bank employees in several places, and as I have already said, the same opinion was expressed about the Sen Award.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I enquire whether among the representations received by the Government, there is a request urging the Government of India not to implement the Award, but to appoint a special Bench to conduct a fresh enquiry?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Not in the representations which we have received, but I have read this in the newspapers.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know, Sir, whether Government have enquired whether large numbers of employees will get less of amenities and allowances according to this Award than they get at present?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It is a matter of opinion.

**Shri Punnoose:** It is not a matter of opinion. It is a question of fact.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Whether the hon. Member feels it is less or more, it is a matter of opinion.