

**Shri Khandubhai Desai:** I am not in a position to say definitely how many industries are finally decided, but it is under consideration, and I hope five or six Wage Boards will be appointed which will cover two-thirds of the workers in all factories.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know where the headquarters of these Wage Boards will be located and how many workers are likely to be covered by them?

**Shri Khandubhai Desai:** As I have already stated, nearly two-third of the workers will be covered by the Wage Boards contemplated to be established. And the headquarters of the Boards will be located at the places most convenient to the industries and the workers.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know if the steel industry will be one of the industries in which Wage Board will be set up?

**Shri Khandubhai Desai:** Along with other industries it is also one of the industries under consideration.

#### French Possessions in India

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- \*4. { **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

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

(a) whether the French Government have indicated any time schedule for the ratification of the Treaty of Cession of the French settlements in India; and

(b) if so, what the time schedule is?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chahda):** (a) and (b). The French Government have not indicated any time schedule for the ratification of the Treaty of Cession of the French Establishments of Pondicherry Karikal, Mahe and Yanam. We have however been informed that the question of ratification is at present being considered by them.

**Shri Bhagawat Jha Azad:** Have they indicated as to what are the reasons for this inordinate delay in this matter?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru):** No, Sir. The reasons are well known to everybody who is acquainted with the recent developments.

**Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** May I know whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table of the House after ratification?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Of Course, yes, Sir. After ratification it will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if the lack of *de jure* ratification of this treaty places any difficulties in the way of administering the French possessions in India?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** There is no difficulty in regard to administration, but there is an obvious difficulty in giving a final shape to things. But the day-to-day administration is carried on without any difficulty.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether the recent events in Western Asia will retard the matter in coming to a final arrangement at an early date?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No events anywhere need come in the way except in so far as the French Government is too preoccupied with other events.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that owing to this sort of vacuum in the former French possessions it has not been possible to bring the laws prevailing in those possessions in line with the laws of the Indian Union?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Well, Sir, it is not proposed to bring them wholly in line; in fact, we have given an assurance that a number of their laws will continue—the system and laws they are used to for 150 years—and we do not want to change them suddenly. It is for them to make from time to time what changes should be made. Some changes, of course, have been made and will be made.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** May I know the nature and extent of the jurisdiction of the French Embassy in India over the French Settlements, the purpose for which the French Ambassador has recently made a visit to Pondicherry and other places, whether the Government of India were notified as to the actual purpose for which the visit was made?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The French Embassy or the French Government have no jurisdiction of any kind there. They are interested in certain cultural establishments there which, by agreement with the Government of India, have been continued and expanded, and the French Ambassador sometimes goes there to see the working of the cultural establishments, one or two of which are actually financed by the French Government.