

While in the last year, the number of estates was only 11, during the current and the coming years, 51 estates will be completed.

Recognition of Unions

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*1138. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Prabhat Kar:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Saraju Pandey:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring any law regarding recognition of unions;

(b) if not, what steps are being taken to settle this problem; and

(c) whether a tripartite Conference is likely to be called to discuss this issue?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to enact any legislation regarding recognition of trade unions.

(c) It is proposed to include the entire question of industrial relations for discussion at the next Indian Labour Conference.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The Minister has just stated that there is no proposal to have legislation for recognition. May I know whether it is within his knowledge that with the introduction of clause 4(b) in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules, where it is said that no worker can become member of a trade union which does not seek recognition within six months of its registration, and in the absence of legislation, it is not possible for a union to have recognition? If so, what steps are being taken by the Labour Ministry to scrap that amendment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wanted to know whether legislation was being contemplated, and the answer was 'no'. Now he is entering into an argument that it is required and must be undertaken.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: No argument.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What else is it?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Then I shall point is that with the introduction of the new amendment....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, he is pressing that it is necessary and they should go forward with that legislation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Then I shall ask my second question. May I know whether some of the central trade union congresses have suggested a referendum to judge the representative character of the various unions and their subsequent recognition? If so, which are those organisations and whether Government agree to the most democratic method?

Shri Abid Ali: If the hon. Member wants a list of those organisations, he will have to give notice. But the position is that legislation will only secure technical recognition for unions. We want recognition to be purposeful. At present, most of the unions are recognised; it may not be so in technical terms, but it is recognition for all practical purposes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Various unions have suggested this. I want to know whether the central trade union congress organisations have suggested that there should be a referendum to judge the representative capacity of a particular union and for its subsequent recognition. Has the AITUC made that suggestion? If so, has the suggestion been accepted by Government? If not, why not?

Shri Abid Ali: In practice, a union which deserves recognition gets recognition.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I know hon. Deputy Minister is supposed to be a moving encyclopaedia on labour problems. But he says that.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why these comments? He makes a hypothesis which is not accepted on the other side.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This is a compliment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He should come straight to the question.

An Hon. Member: It should be 'walking encyclopaedia.'

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: During the question hour, compliments need not be paid. We have to elicit information. The question should be quick and brief and the answer prompt.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Deputy Minister has said that unions which deserve recognition get recognition. May I know the definition of the word 'deserve'?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Definition is not to be got here.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether Government have given up this policy of bringing forward legislation for recognition of trade unions as formulated in the labour policy of the Second Plan? Will at least a directive be issued to State Governments to bring forward such legislation?

Shri Abid Ali: Some States have got Acts through which recognition is secured by the unions deserving recognition. As I have said earlier, a very large number of trade unions is recognised for all practical purposes. At present, as I have indicated earlier, there is no intention of bringing in legislation for this purpose.

Anti-Sea Erosion Work in Kerala

*1139. **Shri Kodiyam:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the anti-sea erosion work in Kerala;

(b) the total expenditure so far incurred in this regard; and

(c) the nature and extent of financial aid given by the Centre to the Kerala State since the work began?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Construction of one mile of experimental sea wall with groynes near Cochin Harbour was completed by 1956-57. Work on 6 miles of sea walls in Trichur and other districts is in progress and a length of 4 miles is nearing completion.

(b) The expenditure incurred during the first Plan was Rs. 9.17 lakhs. Under the Second Plan the expenditure incurred upto January, 1958, was reported to be about Rs. 37 lakhs.

(c) Assistance amounting to about Rs. 9 lakhs was given during the first Plan. During the Second Plan the scheme is eligible for assistance within the allotment available each year for loans for miscellaneous development schemes.

Shri Kodiyam: What was the nature of the financial assistance sought by the Kerala State to implement this work?

Shri L. N. Mishra: From a recent communication from the Kerala Government, we find that they want 200 miles of sea walls, and each mile of wall costs about Rs. 10 lakhs. Originally the Plan provision was Rs. 258 lakhs; it has been reduced to Rs. 185 lakhs.

Shri Kodiyam: May I know whether the Kerala Government has submitted any new scheme to extend the anti-erosion work now carried on in selected parts of the coast to other affected areas along the rest of the coastline?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): The reply given was with reference to the new scheme which is a larger scheme.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that one mile of sea wall has been constructed for experimental purposes. May I