

news agencies that we felt that we should lay down certain general rules. At present we have not got any other all-India agencies. There are small agencies. But, as far as my recollection goes, we have only received applications, we have not got anything functioning.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let hon Members study the statement first and then put supplementaries. Next question.

Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Textile Mill, Rajnandgaon

S.N.Q No 17. Shri Vajpayee: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether the Bengal-Nagpur Cotton Textile Mill at Rajnandgaon, Madhya Pradesh, has closed down from the 5th September, 1959,

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the number of workers rendered idle as a result of the closure of the mill, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to get the mill restarted?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes. From 6th September, 1959.

(b) Some of the reasons given by the management for closure are un-economic working and financial difficulties. About 3000 workers are affected.

(c) The State Government being the appropriate Government tried to persuade the employer to postpone the closure for another 3 months pending an enquiry but the employer wanted to affect a wage-cut of 22½ per cent to be treated as a deferred payment to be made good when the mills make profit. A survey party was appointed to investigate into the technical and financial position of the mills. Government of India have since issued a

notification appointing a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri G. D Somani, M.P., to investigate into the affairs of the mills.

Shri Vajpayee: Has Government received from the workers any proposal to work the mill on a co-operative basis and, if so, what is the reaction of Government to that proposal?

Shri Abid Ali: No such proposal has been received, so far as I know.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know whether the proprietors gave notice of their intention to close down the mills before they actually closed it down and, if so, what action Government took before the mill was closed down?

Shri Abid Ali: I have already stated as to what action was taken.

Shri Vajpayee: The first part of my question has not been answered. I wanted to know whether the proprietors gave previous notice.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether notice was given of the intended closure.

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. They did give notice.

Shri S. M Banerjee: Since the Government of India has appointed a committee, may I know whether the closure notice has been withdrawn till the Committee submits its report?

Shri Abid Ali: The mill has been closed with effect from the 6th instant.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: According to the decisions of the Naini Tal 10th Labour Conference, the millowners have to give a notice of two to three months before they close down. Was such a notice given by the owners of this mill?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. Notice was given.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Has any action been taken by the Government

by way of revenue recovery proceedings to ensure that the workers get the retrenchment compensation which is their due and are paid the last month's wages?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. About Rs 14½ lakhs are due to the workers. The property, I think, has already been attached and the proprietors have been asked to pay the amount within 48 hours, I think. Action is being taken for the recovery of the amount as arrears of land revenue.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In view of the fact that the millowners had given the notice of closure two months ago, may I know the reasons for the delay in appointing the committee of enquiry?

Shri Abid Ali: As I said first of all a survey party was appointed to find out the technical side of the matter and then another committee has been appointed.

Membership of Central Trade Union Organisations

S.N.Q. No. 18 Shri K. N. Pandey: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state the total membership claimed by and the actual membership of (1) Indian National Trade Union Congress (2) All India Trade Union Congress (3) Hind Mazdoor Sabha, and (4) United Trade Union Congress upto the 31st March, 1959?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The claimed membership figures from the INTUC, AITUC and the HMS as on 31st March, 1959, which were due on 31st August, 1959, have been received. These are:—

S.No	Name of the Organisation	No of Unions	Membership
(1)	I.N.T.U.C.	1,269	15,03,605
(2)	A.I.T.U.C.	1,138	10,82,572
(3)	H.M.S.	324	4,80,200

The UTUC had asked for time upto 15th September, 1959 which has been allowed.

The verification, which is being done in accordance with the procedure decided upon in consultation with the representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations, will take several months to complete.

Shri K. N. Pandey: What was their claim last year, that is, in 1958 and what was the actual membership found out?

Shri Abid Ali: Whose claims?

Shri K. N. Pandey: Of the four organisations.

Shri Abid Ali: Last year INTUC claimed a membership of 13 lakhs and the verified number was about 9 lakhs. The AITUC claimed it to be 14 lakhs and the verified number was about 5 lakhs. The UTUC claimed a membership of about 1,96,000 and the verified number was 80,000. The HMS claimed it to be 3,57,000 and the verified number was 1,84,000.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What are the comparative figures of AITUC and INTUC in West Bengal, Andhra, Kerala, Tamilnad, Delhi, Punjab and Karnataka after the recent verification?

Shri Abid Ali: For that notice will be necessary.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know.

Mr Deputy-Speaker: I have called Shri Chaudhuri. Shri Banerjee has asked a question and the hon. Minister has said that he wants notice for it. I have already called another hon. Member.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I only want to know. . . .