

posed Industrial Relations Bill include, *inter alia*, establishment of Industrial Relations Commissions/High-Powered Tribunals comprising judicial and non-judicial members both at the Centre and in the States; provision for Collective Bargaining Agent/Council for a unit or for an industry for a specified term; identification and the method of selection of the Collective Bargaining Agent; registration of a Trade Union on the basis of a specified percentage of membership; further restriction on the number of office-bearers from among non-workmen; debarring Ministers from becoming office-bearers of Trade Unions, etc. The Bill aims at expeditious settlement of industrial disputes and promotion of healthy trade-unionism.

(c) It is proposed to introduce the Bill during the current Session of Parliament.

Protection of Sea Wealth

971. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sea around Lakshadweep Island is turning into a graveyard for whales;

(b) whether every year whales get stranded in the shallow waters around the Islands or are washed to the shores, where they die bruised and torn by corals; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to protect the sea wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). Government have no information about whales getting stranded every year at Lakshadweep. Stray cases of whale getting ashore have been reported from Lakshadweep. Since this is a natural phenomenon, no protective steps are considered necessary.

Destruction of Coconut Palms in Kerala

972. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of destruction of coconut palms due to drought in 1987 in Kerala;

(b) whether any special assistance is being given to the growers who have suffered on this account; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: (a) Loss on account of damage to coconut crop on 4.26 lakhs ha. due to drought in 1987 was reported by the State Government.

(b) & (c). Based on the report of the Central team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 4.52 crores has been approved for agriculture/horticulture input subsidy to the affected growers.

Construction of Hotel in USSR

973. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for construction of hotels in USSR by 2000 A.D.; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the terms of agreement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). The possibilities of setting up of hotels in Russia in collaboration with the private as well as public sector companies in India are being explored by the Government of U.S.S.R.