

Contract Labourers

747. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of labourers now working on contract in different organised industries in the country;

(b) the approximate number of Contract labourers in unorganised industries in the country;

(c) whether Government considers that the legislation for the abolition and regulation of the system have proved to be inadequate; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for making suitable amendments in the existing Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b). While complete and precise information regarding this is not available, on a very rough estimate, there are nearly 1 million persons employed as contract labour in the Central sphere industries.

(c) and (d). While Government do not consider that the legislation in question has proved to be inadequate the position is being reviewed by Government from time to time, in the light of experience in regard to the working of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970.

Declaration of Industrial Truce

748. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare 'Industrial Truce for a year or so; and

(b) if so, the general reaction of the organised Trade Union to the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). At the Tripartite Labour Conference held in May, 1977, the Union Labour Minister made an appeal for a period of industrial peace so as to allow Government to bring about a change in the machinery and procedure for settling industrial disputes. He again brought the issue to the notice of the representatives of the employers and employees in the Tripartite Committee on Comprehensive Industrial Relations Law and stated that it was necessary that all concerned should agree for a period of industrial peace for a year or so. The proposal was generally welcomed by both the employers and employees.

Pilferage of Foreign Mail

749. SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large pilferage is occurring in the case of foreign mail especially magazines and newspaper; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHEDEO SAI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Rise in prices of anti Malaria drugs

750. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steep rise in the prices of anti Malaria drugs has effected the eradication of Malaria in the country; and