

**Improper treatment to Sikhs in Saudi Arabia**

419. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:

**SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints about improper treatment given to Indians in Saudi Arabia, if so, what is the nature of the complaints particularly regarding the Indian Sikhs; and

(b) has Indians High Commission Officials in Saudi Arabia taken any steps to remove this hardship to Indians and if so, what action has been taken?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):** (a) There have been no generalised complaints about improper treatment of Indians in Saudi Arabia. However, in the middle of 1976, the Government of Saudi Arabia imposed a ban on the entry of Sikhs into the Kingdom and decided to evict those already working there. According to Saudi authorities this action was taken as some Sikh workers had committed certain irregularities and had resorted to strike and trade union activities which are strictly banned in Saudi Arabia.

(b) Ever since the ban on Sikhs was imposed, our Embassy in Saudi Arabia has been endeavouring to have it lifted. . . . A few Sikh workers were deported in September/October, 1976. However, as a result of our Embassy's efforts no mass eviction of Sikh workers took place and those under contract were allowed to complete their terms. The ban on fresh entry of Sikhs, however, continues. This matter has been pursued at various levels both in Saudi Arabia as well as in Delhi and efforts continue to have this question satisfactorily resolved.

**Cooperation by Employers' Representatives with Wage Board for Journalists and Non-Journalists**

420. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:**

Will the Minister of **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Employers' representatives on the Wage Board for Working Journalists and other newspapers employees have now decided to cooperate with the Wage Board; and

(b) if not, the steps being taken by Government to persuade the employers?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):** (a) and (b). In December, 1977, Employers' representatives on both the Wage Boards wrote to the Government that they were withdrawing from the Wage Boards, as their Organisations had desired them to do so. Discussions have been held by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Labour with the representatives of the Employers as well as Workers, separately and jointly, to resolve the deadlock. The next round of these discussions is expected to take place early next month.

**Appointment of Committee to review Social Security Schemes**

421. SHRI L. L. KAPOOR: Will the Minister of **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to appoint a committee to review the existing Social Security Schemes and to examine the desirability and advantages of integrating the Social Security Schemes; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?