

**Committee to study problems of Central Act on bidi workers**

4238. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of All India Bidi Industry Federation has urged Government to appoint a high power tripartite Committee to go into the problems arising out of the Central Act on bidi workers and to find measures for placing the industry on a sound footing; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The All-India Bidi Industry Federation had submitted two memoranda dated the 16th April and 8th August, 1974. Their main suggestion was for appointment of a tripartite committee to consider various amendments proposed by them to the provisions of the Bidi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and Rules thereunder and to stay the implementation of the Act till such time as those amendments are carried out. They had also suggested that simultaneous enforcement of the Act in all the States should be ensured after the above amendments/modifications were finalised.

(b) It has not been found feasible to accept the suggestions relating to the appointment of a tripartite committee and to stay the implementation of the Act. The Act is to be administered by the State Governments and necessary action is to be taken by them.

**Nepal to be a zone of peace**

4239. SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR:

SHRI KUSHOK BAKULA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Coronation celebrations, the King of Nepal had proposed that his country be declared as a Zone of peace;

(b) if so, whether any elucidation had been sought from our diplomatic representatives in Nepal for any help which could be rendered by India in furthering this declaration; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and further measures taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. H. M. the King of Nepal made this proposal in a speech delivered on the 25th February, 1975.

(b) and (c) There has been no substantive discussion with Nepal on this proposal.

**Ratio of civilian store keepers and service personnel**

4240. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ratio of civilian store keepers is maintained vis-a-vis service personnel in ratio of 20:80;

(b) if so, the strength/establishment of Airmen vis-a-vis civilian store keeping staff; and

(c) if not, the remedial measures taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The ratio of 20:80 in respect of civilian store keepers vis-a-vis Service personnel has been laid down in respect of Static Units only. Subject to marginal variations, however, the prescribed ratio is being maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

**Civilian Officers in Defence Services and Ordnance Factories**

4241. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of civilian class I and class II posts in Army, Navy, Air Force and Director General of Ordnance