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Shortage of Airconditioning Staff at Tikiapara Yard

3014. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of airconditioning staff of all categories at Tikiapara Yard of Eastern Railway for a long time;

(b) whether is also a fact that staff are being forced to perform double duty continuously;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to provide more staff to this section;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However only under exceptional circumstances staff are booked to perform double duty as per extant rules.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Creation of posts is a regular process. 50 posts in different categories have been sanctioned in the month of Nov. 96 for additional AC services.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Labour Conference

3015. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of Central Labour Organisations have conducted 33rd Session of Indian Labour Conference (Bhartiya Shram Sammelan) in October, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thero of and the suggestions made to the Government in this conference;

(c) whether the representtatives of Federation National Centre for Labour (N.C.L.) of unorganised sector had met him in this regard and apprised him of their problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The 33rd Session of the Indian Labour Conference held at New Delhi on 24-25 October, 1996. This Tripartite meeting was attended by representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations, Employers' Organisations and Central and State Governments.

The Conference, inter alia, discussed items on:-

- (1) modernisation and re-organisation of employment exchanges;
- (2) modernisation of vocational training system;
- (3) floor level minimum wages in unorganised employment
- (4) recognition of trade unions through secret ballot
- (5) amendment to the I.D. Act, 1947; and
- (6) the Bill on Workers' Participation in Management.

While the conclusions of the Conference are being drafted by the Committee constituted for this purpose by the Conference, broadly it was recommended that (1) a Bipartite Committee should be constituted to frame a comprehensive Industrial Relations Law and consider proposals made to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 on priority basis and submit its recommendation. (2) removal of disparity in the ceiling fixed for payment of gratuity for Central Government employees and industrial workers; (3) again write to the State Government to revive the practices of holding tripartite consultation at the State level if not already done; (4) a National Floor Level Minimum Wage for unorganised labour should be adopted taking into account updated poverty line basis; (5) vocational training programme of DGE&T should be reoriented towards improving the quality of vocational training and upgradation of skills; (6) Employment Exchanges should be modernised and re-organised to function as effective placement centres; and (7) Workers' Group suggested that wage ceiling fixed for payment of bonus/productivity linked bonus should be removed. However, Employers' Group urged a total review of the Bonus Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The representatives of National Centre for Labour (NCL) desired to give representation to unorganised sector in the Indian Labour Conference. It was clarified that representation of the Central Trade Union Organisations in the ILC is given on the basis of verified strength of various unions as done by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). However, two representatives of the NCL were allowed to attend the 33rd Session of Conference on 24-25 October, 1996.