

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : Nothing is outside the purview of these production committees. Matters of promotion are sometimes raised even there. But broadly these are matters which are taken up usually between the recognised unions, sometimes unrecognised unions, and the management and workers discuss them, though ultimately the decision in matters like this has to be the decision of the management.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is evident from the statement that in Bhilai bipartite central production departmental committees had been formed and similar committees had been formed in Rourkela. The hon Minister explained that because of trade union rivalry in Durgapur it has not been formed. I should like to know from him whether on the basis of the report of the Public Undertakings Committee any decision had been taken by the Government, especially by his Ministry, to include workers' representatives on the HSL board as such ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : The hon. Member is as aware as I am that this proposal was made by the Government to the representatives of the unions who are represented in what is called the joint negotiating committee for the steel industry, but unfortunately the representatives have not been able to give any recommendation about the procedure that should be followed in affecting representation of workers in the management. The workers' representatives welcomed the proposal and in the meeting of the committee held in February 1972, they expressed the feeling that this would not really amount to labour participation in management unless this participation was at all levels, starting from the shop floor level. I myself discussed it again on the 15th March with the committee, and while appreciating the points they made requested them to discuss it again in the light of the steps that we have taken in Rourkela and put up proposals which we would be in a position to implement.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : In view of the intra trade union rivalries and difficulties as stated by the hon. Minister, is the department considering the representation of employees at various levels on the basis of direct elections from the employees themselves ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : We do not think that to adopt that procedure without the approval and co-operation of the unions would advance the interests of either the workers or of the plant.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Is it not a fact that it is not the inter-union rivalry but on the other hand the method of functioning of the top officers of the steel plants that is creating serious obstruction to production ?

In this respect, may I know whether the floor level committees that the hon. Minister is proposing would be statutory bodies or simply a nominal body which will hold meetings, but whose recommendations will not be accepted by the top management ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : The answer to the first part of the question is : no. In regard to the second part, naturally the decisions arrived at between the management and the workers at different levels will be given every weight by the management and they will be implemented, subject of course to further discussions if there is disagreement at higher levels.

Workers Unemployed Due to Power Shortage in Gujarat

+

*786. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**
SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :

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

(a) whether power shortage in Gujarat has rendered a large number of workers unemployed ;

(b) the total number of employees affected ;

(c) whether the Associations of the Labour Union have requested the Union Government to intervene and suggested that instead of closing some machines, thus rendering workers jobless, the mills should be asked to reduce hours of work ; and

(d) if so, the kind of assistance the Union Ministry are considering in view of

the large-scale unemployment created by this power shortage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the State Government, the workers have been laid off from 18th March, 1972 in area other than Ahmedabad and from 13th April, 1972 in area including Ahmedabad City also. The number of workers affected varied from day to day. The total number of man-days lost due to lay-off given to workers comes to 77967.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : The hon. Minister has stated that the number of workers varied from day to day. Keeping this in view, may I know from the hon. Minister the average number of workers inclusive of Ahmedabad city who were rendered unemployed due to non-supply of power and the amount of wages lost by such workers ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The number of workers, from day to day, I can give. The average will not give the correct picture because power-shedding varied from hour to hour. If you are interested, I shall give how many were laid off on each day but it is a long list. On 13.4.1972 it was 1,142.

MR. SPEAKER : I think he can send that information to the hon. Member's house.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : The amount of wages lost by the employees ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I shall need notice for that ; I shall have to get it.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Will the Government take any steps to compensate in full the wages lost by the workers rendered unemployed due to non-supply of coal and power ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Such a representation was made by the textile labour association to the millowners' association. It

had been turned down. Under the Act they are entitled for half the wages which they will get. Now the question is whether this could be raised as an industrial dispute and could be referred to adjudication ; that will have to be examined.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया है कि 77 हजार से अधिक श्रम-दिनों की हानि हुई है। एक दूसरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने बताया है कि मजदूरों को आधी मजदूरी दी जायेगी। उन्हें आधी मजदूरी तत्काल मिलनी चाहिए, लेकिन अभी नहीं मिली है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्हें कब तक मिल जाएगी। भविष्य में इस प्रकार श्रम-दिनों की हानि न हो, इसके लिए क्या व्यवस्था की जा रही है ? मजदूरों की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है, तो उन्हें ले आफ कर दिया जाता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय विजली की कमी होने की स्थिति में भी हर नियम को लागू करने के बारे में क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं।

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I have no information whether wages were paid or not, but I presume that because all of them have joined work—only 10 per cent are still out, I am told—so they must have received their wages. So far as the other part is concerned, in a situation like this, it is not possible to avoid lay off because the hours of shedding of power are not regulated.

Relation with Egypt

+

*787. **SHRI K. MALLANNA :**
SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :

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

(a) whether any efforts have been made to improve our relations with Egypt ;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction ; and

(c) the results achieved so far ?