

ment are committed to socialistic approach to the working classes and the peasantry they should not declare this day as a holiday for labour all over the country?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I know fully well that May day celebrations all over the world symbolise the struggle of the working classes. I do know that. But in the present context of the Indian economic situation, I would like that on that day they produce more and celebrate it as a day of production.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let Government declare it a holiday, and we shall work on the holiday, and I assure him that we shall produce more.

Security of service for construction workers

*991. **SHRI K. BALADIHANDAYUTHAM :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to provide security of service to the employees in the Construction Industry ;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the All India Hindustan Construction Workers Union to this effect ; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) :

(a) The question of conversion of 50% posts in the construction organisation on the Railways and 50% of temporary posts on the open line of the Railways into permanent ones to serve as 'Construction Reserve' is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board). 50% of the temporary employees will be confirmed against this 'Reserve'.

A proposal for legislation to provide for the safety of workers employed in construction industry is under the consideration of the Government.

Besides, a number of labour laws namely, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1926, the Payment of Wages Act, 1923, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are already appli-

cable to the workers in the construction industry.

The C. P. W. D./M. E. S. Contractors Labour Regulations though not statutory are also applicable to the Construction Workers in C. P. W. D. and M. E. S. establishments. Model Standing Orders for casual labour have been framed and forwarded to all Ministries/Departments for adoption in all public sector undertakings.

(b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the Federation of All India Hindustan Construction Workers Unions.

(c) A reply was sent to the Federation of All India Hindustan Construction Workers' Unions on 1.10 1971 indicating the present position of some of the demands made by them. For other demands the matter is under examination.

SHRI K. BALADIHANDAYUTHAM : Since they are considering the question of converting only 50 per cent of the posts into permanent ones, may I know whether there is any proposal to convert the remaining 50 per cent also ?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : The Railways have intimated to us that they are considering for the present only 50 per cent, and later on, if this is successful, they may consider the other 50 per cent also.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The main question does not relate only to the railways, but it relates to construction workers in general.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree that the main question was about construction workers in general.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : Construction workers are also engaged in the railways, and so, in the railways they have indicated what action they propose to take. For the rest, we have given the details.

SHRI K. BALADIHANDAYUTHAM : I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that under the pretext of Medical examination in the railways, even the 50 per cent are not properly absorbed.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA : It is not within our knowledge.

SHRI DINEN BHATIACHARYYA : May I know whether the Minister is aware

of the fact the Hindustan Construction Co., Ltd., wound up a unit in West Bengal during the President's regime and whether the Government has any proposal to take steps to reopen that unit in West Bengal?

MR. SPEAKER: That is entirely a different question.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: It is concerned with the same Hindustan Construction Co., security of service—and that company had already closed down. What steps are the Government going to take?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): I will require notice.

MR. SPEAKER: But I do not think it is relevant. He can give separate notice.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: I will require notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told him so.

SHRI R. N. SHARMA: The question is about the security of service of the construction workers. In his reply, the Minister has given reference to all the labour legislations. I would like to know whether the Government will prepare a model standing order and make it enforceable to all the construction workers under the Standing Orders Act.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This is a question of security of service for the construction workers which is lacking in some of the industries. It is also a question of Government orders on wages for the building construction workers, which are the lowest. They have promised Rs. 5, but the notification issued by the Government of India yesterday says it is only Rs. 3 in some places. In view of the representations received from the various federations including the All India Hindustan Construction Workers' Union, may I know whether the entire matter will be referred to a Wage Board to give them security of service and other things?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: We will consider this suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: You are always very considerate to him.

Detention without trial of Indians in Saigon

*993 SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a report in the *Indian Express* of the 28th April, 1972 about the detention without trial of three Indian businessmen in Saigon;

(b) whether some M. Ps. have written to the Government of India in this regard for their intervention to get early release of these Indians; and

(c) whether this question has been taken up by the Government of India with the South Vietnamese Government and if so, the reaction of the South Vietnamese Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. One M. P. had written to us about the matter.

(c) Yes, Sir. The South Vietnamese Government informed our Consulate-General in Saigon that three Indian nationals had been held in detention, under a South Vietnamese court order, on the charge of having indulged in illegal financial transactions. Their trial is in progress.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister kindly state whether the trial is a judicial one or is an internal departmental enquiry, and whether our representative in South Vietnam has received any representations from these three persons while they have been in detention, and since the detention period has been fairly prolonged, may I know whether our representative has made any representations on their behalf?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: My reply to the first question is that as far as we know, the trial is a judicial one. The persons who have been detained did approach our Consulate-General, and our Consulate-General took up this matter with the local authorities and tried to expedite the matter. Now, we are told that their trial actually started in April, 1971, that is, about four or five months after they were detained.