

हल करने के लिये आप कार्यवाही करने का खे है या नहीं ?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you recognising these trade unions?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: As far as the trade union activities are concerned, under the provisions of the Trade Union Act the agricultural labour can be organised and can be registered as trade union organisation. There is no difficulty at all. It is said that nearly 48 million of Indian population are agricultural labour. Out of this about three million or 3.07 million are organised under the various trade union organisations and it is very amorphous state of affairs as far as the agricultural labour organisations are concerned. In certain States, they are very well-organised and in some States there is not even the formation of such unions.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he is himself aware that the Indian National Congress and the INTUC have tried to organise the rural labour in the country for the last one year? The National Women Workers' Federation is also organising rural labour in the country. Whether the Minister is aware that in trying to organise the rural labour for implementing the major five points of the 20-point programme, the implementing machinery at the State level has to be strengthened so that the problems regarding fixation of minimum wages, abolition of bonded-labour, moratorium, rural debt and all these things can be fully and effectively solved at the State level? Therefore, may I know whether the State Governments have drawn the attention of the Union Labour Ministry that the implementing machinery for agricultural labour has to be strengthened and if so, what measures the Union Labour Ministry has taken in this regard to strengthen the implementing machinery at State level?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I am fully aware of the fact that under the distinguished leadership of Shri Bhagwati, the President of INTUC, the agricultural labour and what they call the rural poor are being organised in several States. In certain States they have taken some forward steps and the organisation has come to assume a certain importance. About the number of personnel to be appointed for implementation of the minimum wages, this question had been discussed in the Labour Ministers' conference more than twice. Several steps have been taken by various State Governments. In fact, the Central Government had drawn the attention of the State ministers to this question. I myself have written to the State Labour Ministers with regard to this subject.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is true that you cannot organise trade unions as government organisation. But why can't you assist in the formation of cooperatives of agricultural labour, so that financial assistance under the Cooperatives Act itself can be given? The main hurdle there is lack of work. Most of the governmental agencies, whether they are railways, public sector organisations or any other institutions, give work to the private contractors and not to these cooperatives. Will you arrange for proper coordination so that the landless workers' cooperatives in rural areas can get work by forming cooperatives?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I will examine this aspect.

Pak Security Pact with France

*506. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report published in a local Daily regarding 'Pak Security Pact with France'; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of France has, however, denied the existence of any security pact with Pakistan.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: This news was announced by BBC and reported in the Indian newspapers. I do not think there is any smoke without fire. May I know whether the minister is going to have detailed investigation about it because most of these agreements are secret?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: Our Embassy in Paris contacted the French Government and they have denied categorically the existence of any such agreement.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: May I know whether the agreement about cooperation among the Gulf States, Islamabad and France about supply of arms and materials also forms part of the secret pact or it is a separate one? Has any information given by the French Government to us about it?

MR. SPEAKER: He says there is no secret pact.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: We are not aware of any defence or security pact between Pakistan and France. But certainly France supplies sophisticated arms to Pakistan. That is true.

SHRI P. ANKINEEDU PRASADA RAO: May I know whether the Pakistan Government has come to an agreement with France about supply of sophisticated aircraft recently?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: I have already said that France supplies sophisticated arms to Pakistan.

Symposium on News Pool decided upon at Lima Conference

*507. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the last Non-aligned Foreign Ministers Conference held in Lima developed the idea further for News Pool and named Tunisia as the co-ordinator for organising the symposium at Tunis and scheduled a larger meeting of the Non-aligned Nations in New Delhi this year;

(b) whether the representatives of the existing news agencies in the non-aligned nations are expected to participate in the New Delhi meeting; and

(c) whether non-aligned blocks in U.N. General Assembly is numerically larger than the combined number of two Blocs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise since the non-aligned countries do not consider themselves as a bloc.

श्री राजदेव सिंह: नान एलाइन्ड कंट्रीज के फारेन मनिस्टर्स की एक कांफरेंस लीमा में हुई थी। उस में यह फ्राइडिया डेवलप हुआ कि नान-एलाइन्ड कंट्रीज का एक न्यूज पूल बनाया जाये। यह भी तय हुआ कि ट्यूनिस् में एक प्रेपेरेटरी कांफरेंस बलाई जाये, और बड़ी कांफरेंस दिल्ली में होगी। जहा इस फ्राइडिया को फाइनल शेप दी जायेगी। इसी महीने में, या शायद पिछले महीने के आखिर में, इस सम्बन्ध में ट्यूनिस् में एक सम्मेलन हुआ। हमारे देश का इन्वितेशन भी उस में शामिल हुआ। प्रधान मंत्री के स्पेशल रिप्रेजेन्टेटिव, श्री यूनस, भी उस में शामिल हुए।