

इन्फॉर्मेशन पर किस आधार पर पहुंचे हैं, क्या वे ऐसा समझते हैं कि सरकार की तरफ से इस का सर्वे कराना बहुत जरूरी है तथा इस के लिये कोई ऐक्सपर्ट कमेटी बनाई जाये ?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: There is no need for forming an expert committee for this, but then these new research centres are looking into the problems. Even though there is no survey, we collect the information about the prevalence of the disease.

SHRIMATI M. GODFREY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether trachoma is an infectious or a contagious disease. If not, and if it is because of mal-nutrition, what steps are Government taking to control or to eradicate this disease?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: It has something to do with mal-nutrition. Under the nutrition programme, children in the schools are being fed for nutrition purposes.

श्री रामचन्द्र विक्ल : क्या माननीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी रोहे तथा आंखों की अन्य बीमारियों के सम्बन्ध में प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा द्वारा इस के इलाज की कोई योजना बनवा रहे हैं ? यदि हां, तो कब तक ? यदि नहीं, तो क्यों नहीं ?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The health education that we are trying to disseminate helps it very much and that is something natural.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Ours is a very vast country of six hundred million people. How is the Minister going to have a survey and who is going to decide, whether the patient has trachoma or not? It is something which an ordinary man cannot find out. What is the method by which the Minister is going to get the correct information regarding prevalence of this disease?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Even without survey, we can get the figure, because we have got the infrastructure throughout the country in the form of primary health centres.

Report of Committee to review Decasualisation Schemes in Major Ports

*131. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Committee to review the decasualisation schemes and allied matters in the major ports;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the report have been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) The Report is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not get any time to go through the report and I did not know that the report of this review committee has been placed in the Parliament Library. Though this report came long back, in the meantime, the casual labourers in all the major ports—specially in Calcutta I have seen—are not getting the benefits which the other permanent employees are getting. If it is so, whether the Government can consider, pending the final consideration of this report by the Government, at least to extend the minimum benefits which are available to the other employees in the case of these casual labourers also?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: I do not know which category of workers the hon. Member is referring to. But in so far as terms and conditions of employment and emoluments of dock workers at Calcutta are concerned, those are already governed by previous investigations carried out by a Committee and there is now a Committee functioning under the chairmanship of Justice Lokur which is also going to make further recommendations on the subject.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: What is the percentage of the casual workers in relation to the total employees in Calcutta Port? As I presume from the Minister's reply that they are already getting all the facilities, may I know what are the facilities yet to be extended in the case of these casual workers? First my question is: what is the percentage?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: In fact this question does not arise from the Chatterjee Committee's report. But if you want to know the exact percentage of the casual labour, I would require notice.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a practice in the Calcutta Port from the late fifties that the manpower required for the port was never taken and it was done with a number of recruitments from the casual labour—that is the practice that has been followed from the late fifties till this day—as a result of which people who used to work in the Calcutta Port from the late fifties till now have always been treated as casual labour violating all normal rules and regulations of the Government and in some cases when they are supposed to complete the legal period in which they can be treated as permanent employees, the Port authorities used to drop them for five or ten days just before the scheduled date. I would like to know whether the Minister has found any such practice in the Calcutta port

continuing and if so, what steps he is going to take to stop this practice?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: I do not think this question really arises....

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got the information or not? Whether the question does arise or not—that is for the Chair and not for the Minister to decide.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: As far as the Dock Labour Board is concerned, there is a pool of labour registered with the Dock Labour Board. As far as port labour is concerned, there is a permanent strength of labour who are already working for the Port. The Port also has some casual labour for carrying out casual labour operations. The Port has not, therefore, adopted the kind of practice which the hon. Member was suggesting. The Port in fact has been employing casual labour for casual operations and when the casual operations are over, the casual labour goes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I have understood the hon. Minister to say that no final decision has been taken on the Chatterjee Committee's recommendations which are under consideration.

May I know from him whether it is a fact that one of the conclusions this Committee came to was that there is a considerable amount of surplus labour in the Calcutta Docks and that various means should be explored as to how to reduce this surplus labour? If that is so and if the matter is still under consideration, I would like to know why the Calcutta Dock Labour Board has announced that 5000 workers have been found to be surplus and some compulsory retirement scheme is going to be introduced so that these 5000 people can be got rid of. I would like to know from him; if the whole report is still under consideration, will any such decision of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board be kept in abeyance until a final decision is reached about the proposed retrenchment of the 5000 people on the ground that they are surplus?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: The Chatterjee Committee suggested and recommended that the strength of labour required for carrying out the necessary operations in the docks should be assessed not only for Calcutta but for other ports also and that some scheme should be evolved for retirement of the surplus labour. As far as the Chatterjee Committee is concerned, that was the recommendation.

But to come to the Calcutta question, the Calcutta Dock Labour Board operates under a statutory decasualization scheme which has been in operation for several years. This statutory scheme provides for a periodic assessment of labour required in relation to the traffic at the port. Such a periodic assessment was not carried out for some years but now it has been carried out, and, it is in pursuance of that assessment that there is a proposal before the Calcutta Dock Labour Board that a surplus of about 5000 workers which has been found, be retired.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: My question is: since no assessment has been carried out for many years, I wanted to know, in view of the fact that this report is now pending, will they see to it that this sudden assessment, suddenly made, that some 5,000 labourers are surplus and should be retrenched, should be kept in abeyance till the whole report is finalised and the Government come to a final decision?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: The two questions are not related. The Chatterjee Committee report and the assessment of labour required by the Calcutta Dock Labour Board under the statutory decasualization scheme—the two issues are not linked. The periodic assessment should perhaps have been carried out earlier but in fact has been carried out now. In that context the proposal has been placed before the Dock Labour Board.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the present enquiry or assessment not relate to Calcutta?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: Sir, it does not relate particularly to Calcutta but it relates to other ports as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Does it relate to decasualisation or not?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: It does relate to decasualisation.

MR. SPEAKER: Calcutta is also included.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: How do you say that these two reports are not inter-related?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: What I am trying to make a distinction in, is that the Chatterjee Report is to the effect that the strength of labour required at each of the ports for carrying out cargo operations should be assessed and surplus labour should be retired. My hon friend is referring to a particular proposal which is now under the consideration of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board. I am trying to say that this particular proposal arises from an assessment relating to Calcutta only under the statutory decasualisation scheme which has been in operation for long. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How is it, even before it has been finalised, it is going to be carried out?

MR. SPEAKER: The senior Minister is going to speak

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON): This question after all is a matter of surplus labour whether it comes by statutory calculations or otherwise. My friend Shri Indrajit Gupta should know it is much better to remain prepared, if it is accepted that we have to disperse with surplus

labour. You know it very well and we have discussed it. When Chatterjee Committee's recommendations are accepted, we should be prepared to deal with them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Not before the acceptance.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: We have already a machinery, my colleague has already told, for assessing that. Suppose we have already assessed and we are ready with that, and it is accepted, there should be no loss of time in retiring.

Workers' Participation in Management

*134. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sample survey made in West Bengal has indicated that not even 10 per cent of Central Government-owned industries have workers in the management; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Member refers to the participation of workers at the shop floor and plant level in accordance with the Scheme for Workers Participation in the Industry announced by the Government on 30th October, 1975. The Government is not aware of any sample survey made in West Bengal, with regard to the implementation of the above Scheme. Information with regard to the survey, if any, conducted by West Bengal Government is being ascertained. However, according to the information readily available in the Ministry of Labour, 30 units including 2 departmental undertakings in the Central Government Public Sector located in West Bengal have either implemented or initiated steps to implement the Scheme.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: We are asking this question after a year has lapsed since the emergency started. Even now the Government says that the implementation of the scheme of representation of workers in the management has in some cases been done and in certain other cases it is being done. In this context I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that at the time when the scheme of representation of workers in the management was put forward, there were some reservations expressed by the Central Trade Unions in regard to this scheme? Even then, I understand, that they have agreed that the Government can go ahead for a trial. Does the Government think that the time has come for reviewing the whole thing? Will the Minister kindly tell the House as to what extent it is a successful scheme and whether the Government has made its own efforts to study this?

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: The question refers to the West Bengal Government survey. As far as the survey is concerned I submitted that we were not aware of that and we were trying to find the information from the Government of West Bengal. With regard to the implementation of the scheme, in West Bengal itself more than thirty units have either implemented or are in the process of implementing the scheme. As I said, the scheme is a flexible one and it is to be adopted according to the circumstances and situation in each industry and each unit which employs more than 50 persons. Therefore, so far as the implementation of the scheme in West Bengal is concerned, it cannot be said that it is not up to the mark. Actually this is a most flexible scheme for ensuring workers' participation at industry level, at shop floor and plant level. This can be adopted depending upon the circumstances in each case and the situation in each case. There are certain units where even lesser people are working and they have also adopted the scheme. After obtaining the informa-