

lay-off relief also. That matter is now pending with the Government.

Now, in matters like this, already the Industrial Disputes Act provides for lay-off compensation due to unforeseen circumstances or conditions which the employer will not be able to control. It is nothing very unusual or new. But it is very unfortunate that the power generation could not reach such a level as would provide full employment and avoid all kinds of lay-off. The lay-off is a consequence of lack of power generation. Both the West Bengal Government and the Government of India are trying their best to see that those calamities are averted.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE—rose.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Banerjee, you are not a Bengali.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** I am an Indian.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It relates to West Bengal. I am giving chance to Members from Bengal. You must tell me once and for all whether you are from U.P. or Bengal.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** My wife is in Calcutta.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** So far as the losses that have been suffered because of lack of power generation for which the Government itself is responsible may I know what is the policy of the Government of India in case of such losses as to who shall bear the losses, whether the labour or the industry which is in a more able position financially to bear the losses? Why should not a suitable legislation be made if it is the policy of the Government of India that such losses should be borne by the industry and not by the labour? If that is the policy, is the Government contemplating to take steps in regard to that?

So far as this Ministry is concerned, apart from quoting what the Minister of Irrigation and Power might have said in the Lok Sabha, has this Min-

istry got any duty to coordinate so far as labour problems are concerned with other Ministries to see that the consequences of the deficiency in the functioning of other Ministries do not fall upon the workers?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:** As far as the liability of losses is concerned, the existing law provides for lay-off compensation upto 50 per cent under certain conditions. The rest of the question is a matter for consideration by way of a suggestion. As regards the third part of his question, the hon. Member knows the steps that are being taken by the Government of India for enhancing power production. Certainly, the Labour Ministry has drawn the attention of the concerned Ministries in this regard. The hon. Member need not have any doubts so far as coordination is concerned.

#### Sino-Indian Relations

\*170. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the Kotnis Memorial Committee which recently visited China have submitted any report to Government or expressed their views about the Chinese people and their Government regarding restoration of friendly relations between India and China;

(b) if so, the facts thereabout; and

(c) Government's assessment thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):**

(a) and (b): Being a non-official visit the Government did not expect members of the Kotnis Memorial Committee to submit any report. However, individual members have conveyed their impressions of friendly gestures by the Chinese people to the memory of the late Dr. Kotnis as well as towards the Indian people.

(c) Such friendly gestures are welcome.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** The Minister has said that individual members have conveyed their impressions. There was only one Member of Parliament, Dr. Vyas, a Member of Rajya Sabha who was included in the team. I do not know why he has not been contacted by the Government to get his impressions about the visit to China.

However, it is good that we do not want to take either overzealous attitude of having friendship with China or an attitude of indifference with China. May I know whether it is a fact that the overzealous commitment of China towards Pakistan as also anti-Soviet posture of China and, for that matter a growing fear of China in regard to growing understanding between India and Soviet Russia, that these are the two causes for having unfriendly attitude towards India by China and whether China has made any positive response to our proposition of having cultural or other friendly ties between the two countries?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** First of all, the basic attitude of China towards India remains more or less the same, it has not undergone any basic change. In regard to their desire to establish cultural and other relations with India, there has been no positive move from their side. However, we are happy to hear this morning that their Ping Pong team would be coming next year to participate in the world tournament in India.

As regards the other reasons for not normalising relations with India, these are all factors which do contribute towards formulation of their policy towards India.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** May I know whether it is a fact that the President of Tanzania, the President of Senegal and the President of Guinea Bissau, after visiting China, came to India and

they had a talk with the Prime Minister and also with the Minister of External Affairs, and also recently after the visit to China by the Prime Minister of Malaysia he had sent an emissary to India to give his assessment about China, and if so, whether the Government have got from these dignitaries any assessment in regard to the basic policy of China towards India and the reasons for their continuing unfriendly postures towards this country?

**MR. SPEAKER:** How is it related to the main question which was about Kotnis Memorial Committee?

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** The question is regarding restoration of friendly relations between India and China. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether from any of these diplomatic sources which I have mentioned, the Government of India have got any indication about the positive nature of the policy of China towards India.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** I have said that there is no basic change in China's policy towards India.

**Streamlining of Provident Fund Administration**

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\*172 **SHRI DHAMANKAR**  
**SHRI VASANT SATHE:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to streamline the Provident Fund Administration with a view to make it operationally more effective and efficient;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines formulated for investment of provident fund have become obsolete and need to be reviewed for canalising the provident fund into high yielding investment; and