

SHRI B. S. BHAURA : You said some of the cases. So I want to know the cases.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : It has been stated that this will apply to the construction industry. I will give the details if you want. It will apply to employees of principal employer in clauses (a) and (b) whether employed directly or through contractors. They will get the benefit. Secondly, they will get if they are employees of contractors provided contractor's establishment is one covered by State laws relating to Shops and Establishments Act. The third case is of those employees of contractors provided the contractors' establishment is not covered by State law relating to Shops and Establishments but is notified under clause (c).

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The Hindustan Construction workers recently gave a strike notice. They said they will go on strike from 1-5-72. With the kind intervention of the hon. Minister the strike did not take place. I want to know whether the construction workers working under Hindustan Construction unit and other big industries will be covered by this scheme or not.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I am very clear, they will be covered.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Khadilkar, you should add another portfolio, Minister for Prevention of Strikes also.

Labour Holiday on May Day

*989. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state whether it was a labour holiday on May Day, 1972 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : The Central Government did not declare May Day, 1972 as a paid holiday.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Will Government give further thought to declare this day as a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act ? Already some commercial workers get the benefit of this paid holiday.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : There was a suggestion to this effect and the question came if the employees were prepared to forego one of their holidays, be-

cause, as the house knows, we have too many holidays in this Country. Then this could have been done. But they were not prepared for it. So it was not possible. Some of the States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu etc. declared May Day as holiday.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Some State Governments like Punjab, Tamilnadu West Bengal and Kerala declared it as public holiday. All the institutions were closed. They got full pay, holiday with wages. The Central Government did not declare a holiday. Why should this be left to their discretion to select one of the holidays to be declared working day instead of the May Day ? Why cannot this additional day be declared as a holiday ? This can very well be declared as an additional holiday. May I know what is the hitch in it ? After all, if there are more holidays, it is so for the States also. Why is the Centre unable to take a decision, when you, Sir, were able to take a decision to close down Parliament on that day ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : In this matter, the States are free to take their decisions keeping in view the general policy. The point is, as I said earlier, we have too many holidays, and we would not like to add even one more holiday, however much we may like to declare one, unless the employees and workers also agree to work on some other day, because we are concerned more with production and other economic matters.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Does he mean to say that the States are not concerned with production ?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : The fact is that Government should make up their mind with regard to giving preference for this holiday. Why can Government not knock out one of those so many holidays which have grown from the feudal ages and give May day a preference and declare it a holiday ? Why do they not think in those terms ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : I endorse your remark that it is a good suggestion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not only a question of having a holiday on May day, but actually May day is a day which symbolises the revolutionary spirit of labour. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister why when Govern-

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. BALADHANDAYUTHAM :** 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. BALADHANDAYUTHAM : 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. BALADHANDAYUTHAM : 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