

**श्री बिद्या चरण शुक्ल :** जहां तक मुझे मालूम है इस तरह का कोई समझौता नहीं था। क्यों समझौता नहीं किया गया, उसका क्या कारण था, इसका मैंने मूल उत्तर में जवाब दिया है कि एक सद्भावना के प्रतीक के रूप में हमने छोड़े और यही कारण था छोड़ने का।

जहां तक इस बात का प्रश्न है कि उन्होंने केवल तीन युद्धबन्दी छोड़े और हमने इतने छोड़े तो यह एक अनुपात की बात है। हमारे पास उनके करीब 90 हजार लोग हैं और उनके पास हमारे 5 या 6 सौ लोग हैं तो अनुपात में इतना ही आयेगा। अनुपात से देखने पर अन्तर नहीं लगता।

**डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पंडित :** क्या भारत सरकार इसी क्रम में पश्चिम क्षेत्र के युद्धबन्दी छोड़ने जा रही है? यदि हां, तो उनकी संख्या क्या है?

**श्री बिद्या चरण शुक्ल :** इसी क्रम में नहीं पर माननीय सदस्य ने पढ़ा होगा और हमारे विदेश मंत्री जी ने इसकी घोषणा इस सदन में भी की थी कि हमारे पास जो पश्चिमी संकर में पकड़े गए युद्धबन्दी हैं उनको हम छोड़ने जा रहे हैं। हमारे पास 540 ऐसे युद्धबन्दी हैं जोकि पश्चिमी युद्ध क्षेत्र में पकड़े गए थे उनको 1 दिसम्बर को पाकिस्तान व पत्र भेजा जा रहा है? मैं यह भी सूचना सदन में दे दूँ कि उस दिन हमें 617 भारतीय युद्धबन्दी जोकि सम्पूर्ण युद्धबंदियों की संख्या है, वह वागाह चेक-पोस्ट पर हमें मिल जायेंगे और भारत वापिस आ जायेंगे।

**PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** May I know whether this release would be effected every year on the occasion of Id?

**श्री बिद्या चरण शुक्ल :** अब यदि आप पकड़ कर ले आया करेंगे तो हम जरूर छोड़ दिया करेंगे।

**Seven-Day Productive Week**

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\*250. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:**

**SHRI P. GANGADEB:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the reaction of State Labour Ministers, Trade Union Organisations and industrial Employees to the concept of "Seven-day Productive Week" spelt out by him recently?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** Though they have not been addressed as a body, the State Labour Ministers, employers and trade union leaders of different persuasions are, generally speaking, not averse to the proposal and the response has been quite encouraging.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** I am surprised to hear the reply. I was present in the meeting which was held in Hyderabad where all the trade union leaders who were present unanimously objected to and resented Sunday working, that is seven days a week. Is it a fact that the central trade unions have requested the hon. Minister to convene the Indian Labour Conference or a tripartite meeting before such a drastic decision is taken and employers are allowed to work on Sundays?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHA-DILKAR):** There was an expression of view in the Consultative Committee where some objection was raised regarding giving Sunday as a common holiday, but when the public meeting was held, trade union leaders of all persuasions, AITUC, HMS and INTUC enthusiastically endorsed the suggestion of continuous work, because one day holiday is there. The idea is that industry will work continuously. Not only that; at other places, this has happened. The only question is about formal consultation with the central trade unions. The INTUC has endorsed this suggestion at several places. Other organisation have also done so. We have succeeded in persuading the trade union leadership at the local level to fall in line.

We are in touch with the Labour Ministers of States. I am happy to report to the House that most of them are persuading trade union leaders at the local level to follow this advice. The only question, as I said, is when we should consult the central trade unions or call a conference. We felt that certain rigid postures adopted by some central trade unions is not helpful to this process. So at the appropriate time we will convene such a conference.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** The All India Trade Union Congress has openly objected to a 7-day week. I do not know wherefrom he got the information that they have been persuaded to fall in line at the local level and so on. The AITUC is not opposed to working 7 days where there is continuous process of work; there we have to, because otherwise, it will adversely affect machinery. But in the textile industry, workers have fought for 30 years to see that Sunday is declared a holiday; for fighting for this against the employers, they were lathi-charged, beaten and even killed, but still they did not agree to this I would request the hon Minister to let the House know whether he is going to convene a meeting of the Indian Labour Conference knowing full well that the AITUC is opposed to a seven-day week.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR:** Whatever be the agitation in the past regarding a common holiday that had taken place, I would like to inform the hon. member that in the Bombay textile industry—I am not talking of the AITUC because their hold in Bombay is limited—agreement might be reached very soon. A similar situation has arisen at several other places. Even in Kanpur....

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** There is no Sunday working in the textile industry in Kanpur and I shall see that it does not work.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR:** Whatever be the advice of trade union leaders at the highest level, this is the position. Agreement was reached in Pondicherry where CITU, AITUC and INTUC were present. They accepted seven days; not

only that. For the recess period, even staggering was accepted. *(Interruption).*

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** I want a clarification.

**MR. SPEAKER:** No controversy; no argument. You can discuss it later but not in Question Hour like this. You should not go on like this during the Question Hour.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Why should I not be given a clarification? I want a clarification.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do not force yourself on me.

**SHRI S. B. GIRI:** Just now, the hon. Minister has informed the House that all the trade unions at the conference have accepted the seven-day working system. May I know whether the Hind Mazdoor Sabha accepted this?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR:** I never made this statement I said that in Hyderabad, from where the hon Member hails, there was a meeting where the HMS and the AITUC leaders came forward and supported the proposal publicly; and it is on record. *(Interruption).*

**SHRI S. B. GIRI:** I am the President of the HMS. I do not know which HMS leader accepted the proposal. I am the President of the HMS and I know the working of it. I know what we have decided. *(Interruption).*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. P. M. Mehta.

**SHRI S. B. GIRI:** Which HMS is it?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please do not think that you can discuss and iron out everything in the Question Hour. This is a simple Question Hour.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** It is not a simple Question Hour. The workers had to fight for 45 years to get a Sunday off. Otherwise, the employers were sucking their blood.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Woolcombe, Ltd., made them work for seven days and made a daily profit of Rs. 1 lakh and a quarter. They exceeded the licensing capacity because they were printing posters.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do not speak without being called.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA:** May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Textile Labour Association in Ahmedabad had agreed to the seven days' working formula and, if not, have the association given reasons therefor, and how many other centres in the textile industry have agreed to seven days' continuous working?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR:** The Textile Labour Association or the Mazdoor Mahajan, as it is popularly known, officially have not accepted the seven-day week for a continuous working, but my information is from the Labour Minister who has informed me that quite a number of mills have entered into such agreements. When I get the information, I shall place it on the Table of the House showing how many concerns in the textile and engineering units have actually started working on this basis.

One question was raised by Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu. Incidentally in Bombay and other places, where the seven-day working has been agreed to, there is an agreement which is being negotiated for a little higher wage because productivity goes up.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** How are they doubling the licensed, registered capacity?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I did not call you, but you are recognising him and replying. You will have the head-ache yourself.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Now, question No. 251.

**MR. SPEAKER:** When your own interest comes, you are ready to overrule them all! (Interruption).

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** The Labour Minister has created much confusion on this question which, I tell you, is being agitated all over the country, namely, that no seven-day week will be allowed; no Sunday working will be allowed. He has now come forward with further confusion. (Interruption).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Why not name this Question Hour as a noise-and-shouting hour? What is this? (Interruption) If you are to settle your procedure and your replies by shouting at each other, I do not think you require a Speaker. Mr. Kachwai.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाह :** आपने जो निर्णय लिया है उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये, शायद इसलिये लिया है कि देश के अन्दर आर्थिक स्थिति अच्छी नहीं है और उत्पादन बढ़ेगा तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस बात की गारन्टी देगी कि जिन उद्योगों में अधिक दिन काम चलेगा उनको बिजली और कच्चा माल पर्याप्त मात्रा में मिलेगा? क्या भव्ती महोदय यह भी बतलावेंगे कि जो उद्योग लगेंगे उनमें अधिक से अधिक शिफ्ट चला कर अधिक से अधिक बेरोजगारों को काम देकर राहत पहुंचाने पर विचार उन्होंने किया है?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR:** The intention is to provide additional employment. Every small unit can provide one-sixth additional employment of the total number of employees. About power shortages and certain other difficulties, we have taken them into consideration. Steps are being considered as to how to meet the situation. As a result of this, I am sure because of additional employment and more production, more industrial concerns are falling in line.

**MR. SPEAKER.** Question Hour is over.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** On a point of order. You called me and the Minister, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, got up to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not call you. He is putting everything in my mouth and getting up. I will never mention your name in future!

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Demarcation of Boundary between India and Burma

\*241. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF.  
SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether boundary demarcation work has been completed between Burma and India; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. So far about 820 miles, out of a total of 906 miles, of the Indo-Burma Boundary have been demarcated. The demarcation work continues. The Indo-Burma Joint Boundary Commission meets every year to take decisions regarding the work of demarcation and the survey officials of the two countries are in continuous contact for demarcation on the ground.

Meeting of National Council of Trade Unions

\*243. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO:  
SHRI V. MAYAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether meeting of the National Council of Trade Unions was held on the 11th November, 1972; and

(b) if so, the main reasons for calling this meeting?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHANDILKAR): (a) A meeting of the National Council of Trade Unions is reported to have been held in Bombay on November 10-11, 1972;

(b) The Government have no information.

Statement by Malaysian Prime Minister on proposed South-East Asian Neutrality Plan

\*246 SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZALPURKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malaysian Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak on a visit to a Soviet Union, has said that 'it will not be useful to bring big powers like India and Japan' in the proposed South-East Asian Neutrality Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) (a) and (b). At a Press conference on October 3, 1972, in Moscow, the Malaysian Prime Minister said that Malaysia preferred a smaller area for neutralisation in South-East Asia, because it was not a good thing to bring Big Powers like India, China and Japan into the area of neutrality.

As far as Government is aware, the South-East Asian region, in the context of the Malaysian proposal of neutralisation, comprises ten States, namely, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam (North and South).

The Government of India have always held the view that the South-East Asian region should be free from Great Power domination and rivalries. Developments, towards this objective are therefore desirable in the interest of peace and security of the entire region.