

to time, to adopt the path of cooperation and consultation and not confrontation. These have been generally welcomed.

Indo-Bangladesh Maritime Boundary

*56. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the further progress made so far in the finalisation of maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh; and

(b) the time by which the dispute is likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) The last round of negotiations on the demarcation of maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh took place from 29 March to 2 April 1975. Negotiations have been suspended since then and therefore no further progress has been made.

(b) The Government of India would like the negotiations on this issue to be resumed as soon as possible with a view to finding a mutually satisfactory solution of the problem.

Observance of Anti-Wage Freeze Day by Industrial Workers

*58. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 20th January, 1978 was observed as an 'anti-wage freeze day' by the industrial workers in the capital and almost all over the industrial centres in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports on the observance of 'anti-wage freeze day' by industrial workers in some parts of the country and has taken note of the views expressed by the trade unions which gave the call for the observance of the day.

Findings of Survey on Occupational wage Disparities in Plantations Sector

*59. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a survey on occupational wage disparity in plantation sector conducted by the National Productivity Council; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study based on primary data available between June and August, 1976, *inter alia*, finds that, while there are inter-regional disparities in the wages of plantation workers, there is no intra-plantation wage disparity within the three Southern States; and that women workers are paid lower wages than men workers even when the job contents are the same.

The Government will take up with the State Governments the need for effective enforcement of the provisions

of Equal Remuneration Act. Government also recognise the fact that wages in plantations are usually determined on the basis of bi-partite negotiations in each State for each plantation crop.

Decline in Voluntary Sterilisation

*60. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of voluntary sterilisation has declined during the past few months (October, November and December, 1977);

(b) if so, the number of cases in the same period in 1976 and in 1977;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of this decrease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The number of voluntary sterilisations during the quarter (October 1977—December 1977) has shown an increase over the previous two quarters of 1977. However the number of voluntary sterilisations performed during October 1977 to December 1977 was considerably less than the operations performed during the corresponding months of 1976. A detailed statement is placed on the Table.

(c) and (d) The Government have made a detailed assessment of the situation. Widespread complaints of compulsion and coercion in the implementation of the programme during the period of Internal Emergency, particularly with regard to sterilisation programme in some parts of the country, have given a serious setback to the Family Welfare Programme. Now the Government have taken steps to make it a truly welfare programme which is being implemented through education, motivation and co-operation of the people. All elements of coercion and compulsion have been done away with. Particular emphasis is being laid on Maternal and Child Health Schemes now.

Statement

Performance of Sterilisations (Quarter-wise) in India.

(Provisional Figures)

| Quarters | 1976 | | 1977 | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| | No. of sterilisations performed | | No. of voluntary sterilisations performed | |
| April-June | 561,096 | | 165,961 | |
| July-September | 3,352,976 | | 199,733 | |
| October-December | 3,166,573 | | 203,937 | |
| TOTAL | 7,080,045 | | 569,031 | |