

5. C.I.B. staff of Zonal Railways and plain clothed staff of divisions are deputed to collect crime intelligence regarding coal theft/pilferage and to organise frequent raids against anti-social elements.

6. Joint checks of weighment of wagons, receipt and issue of coal etc. at various depots are made by Inspectors of the Commercial, Mechanical and R.P.F. Departments to ensure proper accountal.

Crisis in Taxi Trade in Metropolitan Cities

*73. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that taxi trade has been seriously affected in the Metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras ;

(b) whether the present policies of pricing, distribution of passenger cars, the cost of ancillaries and petrol have any bearing on this crisis ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to appoint a Committee to consider this crisis ; and

(d) if not, what other remedies have been thought of by Government to end this crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) As far as the Ministry of Shipping and Transport is aware, taxi trade has not been seriously affected in Metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(b) At present there is no control on the pricing and distribution of passenger cars including ancillaries. The price of petrol in India depends upon international prices of the crude.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

I.L.O. Conference Geneva

*74. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR :
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether he recently attended the International Labour Organisation Conference at Geneva and led the Indian delegation there ;

(b) if so, full facts thereof including names of delegates who attended and the subjects discussed and decisions reached:

(c) whether he was unanimously selected as Chairman of the said Conference; and

(d) if so, the broad details of the main points be stressed in his Presidential observations and in his other sayings at the Geneva Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I. *Names of Delegates*

Minister attending the Conference:

Shri Ravindra Varma, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Labour.

A. *Government Group*

Delegates

1. Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Labour and Tourism, Government of Maharashtra.

2. Shri K. S. Raghupathi, Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

Alternate Delegates/Advisers

3. Shri C. R. Gharekhan, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva.

4. Shri R.K.A. Subrahmanya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

5. Shri T. S. Sankaran, Chairman, State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil-Nadu.

6. Shri V. P. Sawhney, Director-General (Labour Welfare), Ministry of Labour.

7. Shri C. R. Nair, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

8. Shri K. S. Sodhi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva.

9. Shri S. S. Mukerji, Deputy Director, Ministry of Labour.

10. Shri B. Shetty, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva.

B. Employers' Group

Delegate

1. Shri Naval H. Tata, President, Employers Federation of India.

Alternate Delegate

2. Shri Moosa Raza, Managing Director, National Textile Corporation.

Advisers

3. Dr. S. K. Somaiya, Representative of the Council of Indian Employers.

4. Shri N. M. Vakil, Representative of the Council of Indian Employers.

5. Shri Sumant J. Patel, Representative of the All India Manufacturers' Organisation.

C. Workers' Group

Delegate

1. Shri S. Venkat Ram, President., Hind Mazdoor Sabha.

Advisers

2. Shri Prabhakar Ghate, Representative of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh.

3. Dr. M. K. Pandhe, Representative of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

II. The Agenda of the Conference

The Agenda of the Conference was as follows :—

I. Reports of the Governing Body and the Director-General.

II. Programme and Budget proposals and other financial questions.

III. Information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations.

IV. Revision of the Protection against Accidents (Dockers) Convention (Revised)

1932 (No. 32) (second discussion).

V. Hours of work and rest periods in road transport (second discussion).

VI. Older Workers : work and retirement (first discussion).

VII. Follow-up of the World Employment Conference : basic needs (general discussion).

VIII. Structure of the ILO: Report of the Working Party on Structure.

The Conference also had before it the fifteenth Special Report of the Director-General on the application of the Declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid of the Republic of South Africa, adopted by the Conference at its 48th (1964) Session.

III. Decisions reached at the Conference

Briefly the decisions reached were as follows

The Conference adopted a 203.8 million dollar budget for the biennium 1980-81.

The Conference also adopted a Convention and a Recommendation each (i) on Hours of Work and Rest Periods in Road Transport and (ii) on the Protection of Dockers. It also paved the way for the adoption, next year, of a Recommendation offering a better deal to older workers.

The Conference reaffirmed the validity of the development strategy adopted at the 1976 World Employment Conference, aimed at reducing and eliminating poverty by increasing productive employment and meeting basic human needs.

The Conference decided to renew the mandate of the Working Party on the Structure of ILO to enable it to arrive at a final agreement on the various issues pending before it and to submit a final report on the major issues relating to the organisation's structure at the next year's Session.

The Conference adopted the Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and noted with satisfaction the continuing efforts made by Governments to ensure compliance with ratified Conventions.

The Conference also adopted resolutions on Child Labour, Disabled Persons, the Use of Arabic Language in ILO, the Development of the ILO's Programme for the Improvement of Industrial Relations and the ILO Technical Cooperation Programme.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Labour was unanimously elected President of the Conference.

(d) The main points stressed by the Labour Minister were :

(i) The International Labour Organisation had survived many decades and many vicissitudes and had repeatedly demonstrated its utility, its resilience and its continuing promise. The primary reason for this resilience was ILO's commitment to the concepts of universality, tripartism and social justice.

(ii) The Conference coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Organisation. The configuration of the political map of the world had changed in the six decades. New nations had emerged. The advent and accession of new countries to the ILO had brought to the Organisation countries with new ethos, new traditions and different styles of functioning. This increasing universality also imposed the obligation to ensure the universality of the relevance and the impact of the organisation and its programmes. ILO's massive record of achievement in the formulation of standards and conventions had been of relevance primarily to the industrially advanced countries. But to the large majority of workers in the developing countries, these standards and conventions had only distant relevance. The primary problems of the work force in these countries, accounting for an overwhelming percentage of humanity were the problems of unemployment, under employment, intermittent employment, inadequate incomes, and the absence of access to the amenities necessary for the fulfilment of their basic needs.

(iii) The large majority of the workers of the world lived in rural areas and were in the unorganised sector, or in the informal sector, or in the self-employed sector. This underlined the need for an appropriate technology that would maximise production and employment, create the infrastructure necessary for modernisation, promote social justice by preventing the evils of the concentration of power and of inequality in the distribution of the fruits of progress. It was hoped that the ILO would contribute its share in the identification of such an appropriate technology in areas where this was of paramount importance in order to deal with the problems of unemployment and poverty, and also to reorient and expand training projects to ensure the transmission and imparting of new skills that were necessary for the new technology, and for updating and modernising old skills, and ensuring that these opportunities were made available even to those in the unorganised and the self-employed sectors.

(iv) The provision of basic needs, universal education and training, land reforms, working out of mutually reinforcing rela-

tionships between the capital-intensive and labour-intensive technologies, generation of employment and raising the level of productivity and, above all, the effective participation of the mass of people in the processes of development through economic and political institutions were the steps that needed urgently to be taken at the national level as also within a favourable international framework.

(v) If the pre-occupations of the developing world with the problem of poverty and unemployment were not to result in their according low priority to the standard setting activities of the ILO, the remedy lay in ensuring the relevance of the standards to the last majority of the membership of the ILO. One might not get the best from conventions and recommendations if an increasing number of conventions were ratified by a decreasing number of member countries.

(vi) The commitment of the ILO to the objective of abolishing child labour by legislative means remained. But this commitment had to be reconciled with the economic reality. While moving towards the prohibition of child labour, one had to take immediate steps to protect children at work, control conditions of work and insist on measures for the education, improvement of skills and development of children's adaptability for their future working life.

(vii) The test of the universality of the ILO would lie on its ability to re-orient its traditional activities to contemporary concerns, particularly of the developing countries of the world.

(viii) ILO must unequivocally focus its attention on the working poor in the rural areas and in the urban informal sector. It should improve its qualitative contribution at micro-level, identify new modes to reconcile growth with equity and increase in incomes with asset creation, identify industrial relation systems best geared to development, improve delivery systems for training and social services, improve conditions of work and safety in rural areas, promote the organisation of rural workers and widen the range of choice of technology in specific sectors. It must see that the new conceptual framework and technical cooperation were linked to other institutional arrangements that were being set up.

(ix) The changes brought about by the accession of the newly independent and the developing countries to the ILO, the emergence of the State as an employer and the growing realisation by the three

parties, namely, the Government, employers and workers, of the relative merits of pursuing the path of conciliation must find a new equilibrium in the structure and the methods of functioning of the International Labour Organisation.

(x) Concluding the debate on the Director-General's annual report on the policy of Apartheid in South Africa, the Labour Minister referred to the contributions made by Mahatma Gandhi to the cause of human rights. He also drew attention to suggestions made in the course of the debate on the—

Setting up of a special committee for apartheid at the next year's Conference;

—Creation of a joint ILO/Organisation of African Unity expert group to evaluate ILO activities and propose future action;

—voluntary contributions to help ILO establish a comprehensive programme to benefit South African workers.

Meetings of General Managers

*75. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken to curb the growing indiscipline among the Railway workers and their sporadic agitations that have disrupted the smooth running of the trains;

(b) the recommendations made at the meetings of the General Managers held on the 12th and 13th June, 1979; and

(c) the action taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Firm instructions were issued on 31-3-79 that, in the event of illegal strikes/stoppages of work, consequential action viz., deduction of proportionate wages for the period of absence from work and break in service (involving forfeiture of all leave earned upto the date of the strike, postponement of date of increment and commencement of service afresh on the resumption of duty after the strike for the purpose of eligibility for leave and passes and sanction of special contribution to the Provident Fund and Pensionary benefits on retirement) should be enforced. The instructions also lay down that the condonation of

such break in service can be ordered only with the authority of the President and till the break is condoned, no lower authority can assume that the break will be condoned and give the benefits that they have lost by participation in an illegal strike/stoppage of work.

Firm instructions already exist that stoppages of train services should be viewed seriously and deterrent action taken.

With a view to meet any contingency, some Railway Territorial Army units have been mobilised as a stand-by arrangement for deployment if circumstances so warrant.

(b) and (c) The strategies to be adopted with a view to remove transport bottlenecks, gear up operations and to improve the over-all efficiency in railway administration were discussed in great depth at the Conference of the General Managers of Zonal Railways convened in June 1979 immediately after the new Chairman, Railway Board, took over. Several follow-up measures, based on the decisions of the Conference, including monitoring at the Board level, have brought about a considerable improvement in rail operations.

Bonus to Railwaymen

*76. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken over the bonus issue to the Railwaymen and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, when this issue will be decided by the Government;

(c) whether Government accept the principle of bonus to Railwaymen;

(d) what are the latest demands of Railwaymen over this issue;

(e) what will be the financial implication if the demand of bonus is not met; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the Railway men are agreeable for the payment of the bonus at the time of retirement?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is under active consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken by the Government shortly.