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*** Employment Exchanges for Skilled and Semi-Skilled Personnel**

Standing Labour Committee Discussions

Questions relating to labour welfare, war production, the employment of skilled and semi-skilled personnel, industrial disputes and the collection of statistical information on labour problems were discussed at the third meeting of the Standing Labour Committee, in Bombay on May 7 and 8. The Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, presided.

Opinion, in general, favoured the scheme for establishing employment exchanges for skilled and semi-skilled personnel, the scheme being conducted on a voluntary basis. The suggestion that there should be representatives of Provincial Governments on the advisory committees attached to Employment Exchanges was also adopted.

The Conference discussed the insertion of a Fair Wage Clause in Government Contracts. There were suggestions that contracts other than those of the public Works Department should also be covered.

Labour Legislation

The plan for labour legislation and labour welfare during wartime covered aspects like social security, wages and welfare ; and the question whether Wage Boards were desirable in India also came within the scope of discussion. The delegates were assured that the Government of India were anxious to use the machinery of the Tripartite Conference as an advisory body to help them in achieving further progress in respect of labour welfare measures.

It was generally agreed that it was advisable that Labour Officers should be appointed in industrial undertakings, to maintain close touch with labour, hear its grievances and secure redress as expeditiously as

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possible. Reference was made to the Bombay Millowners Association's scheme for training of Labour Officers.

The meeting was attended by the following delegates and advisers from Provinces and Indian States and representatives of Employers and workers all over India :—

Government of India: Mr. H.C. Prior, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Labour Department; Dr. D.T. Jack (Adviser); Mr. R.S. Nimbkar (Adviser); Sir Theodore Gregory (Adviser); and Mr. D.S. Joshi, (Secretary to the Meeting).

Bombay : Mr. C.H. Bristow, C.I.E., I.C.S., Adviser to H.E. the Governor ; Mr. G.B. Constantine, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner (Adviser).

Bengal: Mr. A. Hughes, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner.

United Provinces: Mr. J.E. Pedley, C.I.E., M.C., I.C.S., Labour Commissioner.

Madras and Central Provinces and Berar : Rao Bahadur N.R. Chandorkar, Labour Commissioner, C.P. & Berar; Mr. F.R. Brislee, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Madras (Adviser).

Punjab, Sind & North-West Frontier Province : Mr. A.P. Le Mesurier, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Sind ; Mr. Amin-ud-Din, I.C.S. Secretary, Electrical and Industries Department, Punjab (Adviser).

Bihar, Assam & Orissa: Mr. S. N. Mazumdar, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Bihar ; Mr. A.S. Ramachandran Pillai. Labour Commissioner, Assam (Adviser); Mr. S. Solomon, I.C.S., Director of Industries and Chief Inspector of Factories, Orissa (Adviser).

Chamber of Princes : Mr. Maqbool Mahmood, Secretary, Chamber of Princes.

Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Baroda, Gwalior and Holkar States : Mr. Mahdi Ali Mirza, Labour Commissioner, Hyderabad ; Col. Sirdar M.N. Shitole, Minister of Industries, Commerce and Communication, Gwalior; Mr. B.G. A. Mudaliar, Labour Commissioner, Mysore (Adviser); Mr. E.I. Chacko, Director of Industries and Labour Commissioner, Travancore (Adviser), Mr. K.R. Dotiwala, Director of Industries and Labour Baroda (Adviser); Captain H.C. Dhanda, Commerce Minister, Holkar State (Adviser).

All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers : Sir Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, Bombay; Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Ahmedabad ; Mr. D.G. Mulherkar, Delhi (Adviser).

Employers' Federation of India : Sir V.N. Chandavarkar, Bombay ; Mr. K.W. Mealing, Calcutta ; Mr. A.H. Bishop (Adviser).

Other Employers : Dewan Bahadur C.S. Ratnasabapathy Mudaliar, C.B.E., Coimbatore.

All-India Trade union Congress : Mr. N.M. Joshi, Bombay, Mr. Fazal Elahi Qurban, Lahore ; Mr. B.K. Mukerjee, Lucknow (Adviser); Mr. P.R.K. Sharma, Madras (Adviser).

Indian Federation of Labour: Mr. S. Guruswamy, Madras; Mr. S.C. Mitra, Cawnpore ; Mr. M. A. Khan, Lahore (Adviser).

Other Workers : Mr. R.R. Bhole, M.L.A. (Bombay) Poona.

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