

LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY (1987). Edited by Laszlo Nagy. Vols. 1 & 2. Akademiai Kiado, Budapest. Pp. vol. 1, vii + 607; vol.2, 611-1020. Price \$ 75.00

THESE TWO volumes contain the contributions made by the invited speakers from various countries to a conference on Comparative Labour Law and Social Security. The countries represented were Hungary, Brazil, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, German Democratic Republic, Italy, The Netherlands, Holland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, France, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

The field of studies covered by the conference was wide. It included (i) methods of comparative labour law, and (ii) conflicts of law in labour law. Under these headings the various contributions made by the scholars from different countries described the philosophy and the provisions of the labour law in the respective countries so that a study of comparative labour law would be facilitated thereby. The language used by the contributors was the language of the respective country of each of them though fortunately some of the contributions were made in English also though there was no participant from the U.K.

The meaning of comparative labour law would be easily understood because it is in line with the comparative law studies generally. It is interesting to know that most of the countries of which the systems of labour law were described and discussed have the common object of providing for a voice of the labour in the management of an industry. This is also followed by various provisions for the welfare of the labour being treated with special care as a hardworking part of the population of the country. One is encouraged to realize that Indian labour law is also similar in this respect to these systems of labour law.

As for the conflicts in labour law what is envisaged is the struggle for freedom and social development during the past centuries by the labour to attain its present position and to fulfil its future ambitions. Labour regulation is now regarded as an integral part of the economy of a country. It has to advance for the attainment of the objective of economic development through management of industry. Secondly, industrial democracy developing in social dimensions has to be increased. Thirdly, in the system of labour law the importance of local arrangements has to be increased. Fourthly, the code of labour should contain general rules of the different framework serving for the performance of work. These common features desirable in every legal system of labour are gathered by the editor in the preface contributed by him.

The contributions in these volumes contain very valuable material on the labour law systems of the countries represented in the conference and thereby supplement the data which was hitherto available only in the ILO conferences and publications. The discussions are scholarly and indepth.

The information has much value from the comparative law viewpoint. It is also valuable to guide the emergence of the labour's right to participate in the management of industry and to its own welfare. In India the labour law is a subject of legislation both by Parliament and state legislatures. It would be worthwhile if representatives from the centre and the different states are brought together in a conference to compare notes of the experience under the different labour laws and rules for the mutual benefit of the centre and the states. Perhaps the Indian Law Institute can consider calling such a meeting.

*V.S. Deshpande**

* Former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court; former Executive Chairman, Indian Law Institute.