

having a large number of casual labour and substitutes who have first to be absorbed in regular service. Class-IV vacancies are accordingly being ordinarily filled only by existing casual labour and substitutes working on the Railways. In the Kharagpur Workshop there have also been a few appointments, on compassionate grounds, of dependents of employees who died suddenly leaving the family in straitened circumstances.

PRICE CONTROL ON RETTED HUSKS

1141. SHRI S. KUMARAN :
SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have requested the Central Government to reimburse the expenditure incurred by that Government on the introduction of price control on retted husks ; and

(b) if so, what action the Central Government have taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI
A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Kerala Government have been advised to adjust the amount within the non-Plan assistance made available to them.

PATHINI TEA ESTATE, CACHAR

1142. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE :
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proprietary rights in respect of Pathini Tea Estate in the Cachar District of Assam are now vested in the Government of India ;

(b) if so, the present structure of its management and whether there is any appreciable improvement in the economic viability and organisation of the Estate under the present management ; and

(c) whether Government have any programme for the development of the Estate and also for the welfare of its labour ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI
A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estate is managed on behalf of Government by M/s. Octavius Steel & Co. Ltd., Calcutta. Besides a five-member Advisory Board comprising Chairman and one member of Tea Board, one representative each from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Trade and a representative of the Managing Agents has been set up by Government with a view to advising the Government and supervising the Management and operation of the estate.

Production of tea and working results of the Estate since Government took over possession are as follows :—

Year	Production	Profit/Loss
	(Drier Mouth Wt.)	
	Kgs.	Rs.
1966	615,191	+1,53,679.99
1967	665,341	+ 81,131.48
1968	650,664	—3,80,592.62
1969	650,337	+1,85,000.74
1970	645,500	+2,39,111.07
1971	581,700	—2,43,000.00*

*Provisional—subject to finalisation of Profit and Loss Accounts for the year.

It will be seen that prior to 1971, the working result of the Estate was better except in 1968 when prices of tea in general slumped. The year 1971 was an abnormal year for Pathini Tea Estate as the working was affected to a great extent due to continued shelling from across the border by the hostile Pakistani Army. The situation was further aggravated by frequent break down of grid Power supply and imposition of measures of black out after dusk for considerably long period.

(c) A 10 year development Programme including modernisation and electrification of the factory, transport facilities and labour housing has been approved by the Advisory Board. Total capital expenditure so far sanctioned by Government since 1967 works out to Rs. 12.5 lakhs.

ENROLMENT OF NEPALESE IN ELECTORAL ROLLS

1143. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian