

The uncontrolled categories are ! disposed of by public auction or tender.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the Railway Ministry aware that certain categories of steel sold by them are sold at much higher prices outside?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The scrap is categorised and the Iron and Steel Controller fixes the price and we are selling it according to that price.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is this steel sold at the site where it is condemned as scrap or is it brought to larger places like Bombay?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The prices are all free on rail despatching stations except in the case of melting scrap for which the rate is *ex site*.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: The hon. Minister has not understood my question. My question is whether the scrap is collected and brought over to large cities like Bombay or whether it is sold at the place where it is condemned as scrap.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The present position is this. We are not selling any scrap because scrap is in scarcity and the present policy is this. Railways have been instructed to reclaim and utilise scrap to the maximum extent. Scrap is being issued to ordnance factories and firms engaged in the manufacture of railway stores. Scrap is being supplied to Government undertakings like the Hindustan Machine Tools and also to steel plants. Small quantities are also being issued to educational and charitable institutions and railway employees for bona fide use. As a matter of fact we are to supply by the end of March 1960, 75,900 tons of scrap to the steel plants.

**REQUEST OF GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
FOR ADDITIONAL GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS**

◆623. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO.-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam have requested the Government of India for additional grants for any increase in the number of Community Development Blocks in Assam; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal has been tentatively accepted pending the finalisation of delimitation of Block boundaries.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Have not the Government received the delimitation of Block boundaries?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Not yet, Sir.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: What is the proposal of the Government of Assam for the increase in the number of Blocks?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: They wanted an increase of four Blocks in the plain areas and it has been tentatively accepted.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Is it not a fact that establishment of Blocks in the country conforms to a certain pattern and, if so, what are the special grounds on which the Assam Government has asked for increased assistance for Blocks in those areas?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: They want an increase on the ground of more refugee population having come to Assam and also inclusion of tea

garden labour for purposes of delimitation and certain other administrative facilities.

*624. and *625. [The questioner (Shri Harihar Patel) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 3380-81 infra.]

**†STRIKE BY LABOURERS EMPLOYED IN
CENTRAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

*427. SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers employed in the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack resorted to a strike following the retrenchment of some of the labourers by the authorities;

(b) whether Government have received any report that the said retrenchment was illegal; and

(c) what was the duration of the strike and the steps taken by Government to meet the demand of the labourers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) and (c). The Central Rice Research Institute employs some casual labour every year for cultivation operations and this labour is retrenched during the season when there is less work to be done at the Institute. Accordingly, 75 out of 212 casual workers were retrenched with effect from 14th September, 1959. On 17th September, 1959, the remaining 137 casual workers at the Central Rice Research Institute also stayed away from work but returned to work later on. The issues raised by the labourers have been examined and instructions have been issued to the Director of the Institute on the various points raised by the labourers.

(b) No.

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: May I know the duration of the strike and whether it is still subsisting?

†Postponed from the 10th December, 1959.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No; the whole thing has been settled on the 20th November and work is progressing. There is no strike now.

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the report of the Conciliation Officer that the retrenchment is illegal?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: In fact, the Mazdoor Congress is not recognised and we have asked them to send an application for recognition and the application has been received on the 5th of this month and we are going to take further action.

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: My question was different. I wanted to know if the Conciliation Officer appointed by the Government of India had made a report—and it has been received by the Government—in which he had said that the retrenchment made by the Department was illegal?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: No; h© has not said that it is illegal.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know how many have been retrenched and how many belong to the regular labour?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is not regular labour. The Question refers to only casual labour and its strength, varies from 200 to 300 and they are also seasonal. They are employed only when there is agricultural operation, harvesting, sowing, weeding and things like that.

**†WAGES PAID TO LABOURERS WORKING IN
CENTRAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

*428. SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the daily wages paid to the (i) unskilled, (ii) semi-skilled and (iii) skilled labourers working in the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack; and