

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDI: Have the Government of India ascertained the delay in referring it to the Government of India?

SHRI ABID ALI: There were conciliation proceedings going on there.

WAGE CUTS OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS

*265. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to refer to paragraph (5) on pages 7-8 of the Report of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1953-54 and state:

(a) what was the extent of wage cuts imposed on the workers of tea gardens during the period of crisis in Assam and West Bengal in 1952; and

(b) whether the wage cuts and all other amenities which were suspended during the period have since been restored to the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The extent of wage cuts resulting from the enhancement of the issue price of food grains early in 1953 varied in different regions except Assam Valley from 2 to 6 annas per day in case of adults and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 annas per day in case of minors. In Assam Valley no cut was imposed in economic gardens. In uneconomic gardens, planters were permitted to supply cereals at controlled rates instead of the concessional rate of Rs. 5 a maund but in lieu thereof, the dearness allowance of workers was raised by two annas per adult and one anna per minor for each working day.

(b) The wage cuts have been fully restored in all gardens excepting those in Cachar (Assam) which yield less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per acre where the cuts have been restored only partially. The Government of Assam are, however, contemplating further revision of the minimum wages with a view to restoring fully the cuts in all gardens in Cachar. Government have not received complaints that any amenity had been suspended during the period of crisis and not restored subsequently.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: During those days there were some sacrifices not only on the part of the labourers but also on the part of the management. May I take it that the management have also come back to their original status and restored the cuts?

SHRI ABID ALI: The cut has been restored except in some uneconomic gardens in Cachar area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is not that. He says there were cuts not only for the wage-earners but also for the management. Have those cuts for the management also been restored?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI: I do not know what cuts were made in the profits or earnings of management. I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: I would invite the attention of the hon. Minister for Labour to the Labour Ministry's Report for 1953-54 where it is stated as follows: "In order to prevent further closure of gardens and to induce the gardens which had closed down to reopen, the Governments of Assam and West Bengal had to take emergent measures involving sacrifice both by managements and workers by imposing cuts on the costs of management and by reducing the minimum wages of the workers." I want to know what has happened to the management.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI: The sacrifices that the management may have been called upon to suffer may have been only a little loss in earnings and at that time the Government advanced them loans through banks.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: While fully agreeing with the reply of the hon. Minister for Labour that the losses of the management was only a little loss in the earnings, may I know then why it has been mentioned in that way that a cut was imposed on the emoluments of the management in the Report of the Labour Ministry?

SHRI KHANDEBHAI K. DESAI: Their sacrifice was only to the extent of some loss in their earnings.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: That is right. But what about the other question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the hon. Minister aware that the stoppage of food concession and the supply of cereals at concession rates amounted also to a wage cut?

SHRI ABID ALI: It was, to some extent but it has been restored now.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know to what extent it has been restored?

SHRI ABID ALI: I have already explained that in my reply to the main question.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is my hon. friend aware that cash conversion is only for nine annas and that is also not full conversion, and about this question there was a dispute in the last tripartite conference and the then Labour Minister suggested nine annas as a matter of compromise and, even after giving cash conversion for nine annas the total cut has not been fully restored?

SHRI ABID ALI: But the fact is that the cash conversion value was fixed in accordance with the unanimous agreement reached at the conference to which the representatives of the workers were also a party.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is my friend aware that the agreement was reached because otherwise the workers would have been completely deprived of any compensation? That does not mean that they have been fully compensated. Anyway, there is another question. Is my hon. friend aware that in Darjeeling and Cachar for two months, for January and February 1953, the wages were reduced and for that there has been no compensation as yet?

SHRI ABID ALI: If the hon. Member gives me separate notice, I can obtain the information for him.

FREIGHT CHARGES ON THE IMPORTED FOOD GRAINS

*266. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of freight paid on account of the import of food grains in the year 1953 and so far in the year 1954; and

(b) how much out of the above freight was paid to the Indian shipping concerns?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). The total freight paid on account of food grains imported during 1953 and up to end of November, in 1954, and the amount paid to the Indian Shipping concerns out of this freight amount, are as follows:—

Year	Total freight	(In lakhs of Rupees).
		Amount paid to Indian shipping concerns
1953	1070.5	52.0
1954 (up to end of November 1954).	206.3	81.4

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Sir about Rs. 2 crores have been given this year so far. May I know what were the food grains imported into India for which this freight has been paid?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Mostly rice from Burma and wheat from Australia.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know the break-up of this freight, so far as the foreign companies are concerned? That is to say, how much was paid to the American companies and how