

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It was a little over 10 lakhs.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What is the reason that we cannot have production upto 15 lakh tons which was reached in one of the recent years?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This is quite an intricate matter and I don't think I can cover the whole ground in reply to a question. But the acreage has gone down.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: If the acreage has gone up.....

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It has gone down.

VISIT OF CEYLON RAILWAY DELEGATION

*82. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Ceylon Government Railway Delegation visited India recently; and

(b) if so, what was the purpose of their visit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes.

(b) The visit of the Ceylon Railway Delegation was in the nature of a goodwill mission and to study the working of Indian Railways.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: A goodwill mission?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To understand how we are working our Railways.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Was any material offered to them for purchase?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They had discussions with the Railway Board over various matters.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Did the Railway Board offer them any material for purchase?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That was also one of the subjects that was discussed.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Then, how is it a goodwill Mission?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They come, they understand, they make proposals and we consider them.

*83. [The questioner (Shri V. S. Sarwate) was absent. For answer vide col...322...infra.]

LAY OFF COMPENSATION TO COAL MINERS

*84. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state the total number of miners in the Bengal-Bihar coal belt who have received lay-off compensation from January to October in the year 1954?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): The information is not available and the labour and expense involved in a special effort to collect the information would not be commensurate with the results.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not necessary, in view of the fact that there was a large number of labourers unemployed and laid off in the coal mines, to know whether they are getting the benefits of the Industrial Disputes Amendment Act?

SHRI ABID ALI: Whenever they don't get the amounts which may be due to them, they come to our Labour Officers and Conciliation Officers and we help them.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not necessary for the Government to collect some facts and have an idea as to how this Act has been working?

SHRI ABID ALI: It is working very satisfactorily so long as we don't get complaints.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it a proper answer from a Deputy Labour Minister?

SHRI ABID ALI: Of course it is a very, very proper one.

SHRI B. GUPTA: The point is, as you will see, he has developed this art of evading questions.....

SHRI ABID ALI: Certainly not.

SHRI B. GUPTA: The question was whether he has satisfied himself by collecting factual information as to the operation and the manner in which these measures are being worked. He says 'Until I get complaints, I don't look into such things.'

MR. CHAIRMAN: Here is the Minister answering.

SHRI B. GUPTA: The new one, is he?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI: The lay off and retrenchment legislation has been brought into operation only about 9 months back and until serious complaints are made, we take it for granted that the lay-off and retrenchment compensations are being paid out to the employees. If there are any complaints from the hon. Member, he may send those complaints to us.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: That I shall always do, but may I ask the Labour Minister whether in view of his long trade union experience, he thinks it necessary or not to enquire into this matter? Is he not aware of the fact as to how the employers always cheat the labourers?

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI: No complaint has been brought to our notice regarding cheating of employees by the employers.

SHRI B. GUPTA: We seem to be faced with a Labour Minister.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The point he is making out is that the labourers, on account of all our activities, are so conscious of their rights that they will present complaints if there are any. In the absence of any

complaints, he takes it that the system is working properly.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Minister ought to reply.....(interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am explaining the position.

EXPORT OF RICE

*85. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the floor procurement price of the rice which is being exported to foreign countries; and

(b) the rate at which the rice is being exported at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). Rice is now permitted to be exported by private traders who can purchase rice at prevailing market prices and export it at prices to be negotiated by them with importers in foreign countries. There is, therefore, neither any floor price for purchase nor any fixed export price, except that the Government levy an export duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know what is the maximum price at which rice is exported? Have Government any information?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The maximum price at which we have agreed to supply to Tibet on China's account will be about £50-15-0 per ton.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: I want it computed in Indian currency.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Our cost will be within £35.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't use Pounds, shillings and pence. Say in Rupees, annas and pies.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Half of it will be in rupees. If it is £50 per ton, in terms of rupees it will be Rs. 25 per maund. Half of the pound value will be the rupee value. If it