

tank-wagons, but we have placed orders for 1000 oil tank-wagons. When they are received, the shortage will be removed.

SHRI NARAYANDAS DAGA: When there is already a shortage of vegetable oil tank-wagons, may I know why the mineral oil tank-wagon pool is getting more wagons and not the vegetable oil tank-wagon pool?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: When the new wagons are received, the present mineral oil tank-wagons will be converted into vegetable oil tank-wagons.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Can mineral oil tank-wagons also be used as vegetable oil tank-wagons?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what he says.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: What I said was that when we receive the new petroleum oil tank-wagons, we will convert the existing petrol wagons into vegetable oil tank-wagons. We will convert about 500.

SHRI NARAYANDAS DAGA: What will be the quantity?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are getting 1000 wagons, and we will convert 500 existing petrol tank-wagons into vegetable oil tank-wagons.

SHRI NARAYANDAS DAGA: In which year will these new wagons come?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: By the end of 1955.

LAY-OFF COMPENSATION AND RETRENCHMENT

*154. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of compensation paid to the workers for lay-off since the promulgation of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953; and

(b) the total number of workers so far retrenched under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1953?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The information is not available and its collection would involve time and labour quite incommensurate with the results.

(b) Complete information is not available. A statement giving the number of workers in respect of whom notices of retrenchment were received by certain State Governments is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 64.] Similar information from a few State Governments is awaited. Statistics relating to retrenchment in Central sphere undertakings is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: May I know whether any compensation has been given to the workers who were retrenched in connection with the closure of manganese mines?

SHRI ABID ALI: I did not follow the first part of the question.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: May I know whether any representation has been received by the Government regarding the retrenchment of workers in manganese mines either in Madhya Pradesh or Madras?

SHRI ABID ALI: We have received some representations.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: What action has the Government taken on these representations?

SHRI ABID ALI: Several representations have been received concerning various questions, that workers should not be retrenched, that Government should take some action with regard to the closure, etc., and following that we have withdrawn the export duty on manganese ore.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: The Government has given some concession to the manganese mine-owners by withdrawing or removing the export duty on manganese ore. Has the Government taken any steps to see that the workers who have been laid off are given some compensation, because it has been referred to the Government and Labour Commissioners also have "been informed about it? I want to know whether the Government is going to move in the matter and see that retrenchment benefit is given to the workers, or at least lay-off compensation is given to them.

SHRI ABID ALI: We have not given any concession to the mine-owners. What we did was to help in the reduction of the price so that, in case this disparity was coming in the way of export, export could be helped.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: The Minister has not answered the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is still standing.

SHRI ABID ALI: So far as the workers are concerned, of course our conciliation machinery has been put into action and we hope that something substantial will materialise.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: If the mine-owners refuse to pay compensation as laid down for lay-off under the Act, what steps do the Government propose to take to compel the mine-owners to give relief to the workers?

SHRI ABID ALI: The hon. Member will appreciate that it is a democratic system that we are following. A regular procedure has been laid down for giving relief to the workers and that has been followed.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is it the Government's policy, when any particular concern is closed down in spite of the Industrial Disputes Act, which enjoins on the mine-owners to pay lay-off compensation, not to take any steps to see that the mine-owners or

employers pay lay-off compensation even from their reserve funds?

SHRI ABID ALI: I have just said that a legal procedure has been laid down, and then if any party acts illegally, the law should take care of that.

SHRI PRASADARAO: When the Government intervenes and gives concessions to the mine-owners, should they not also see that the workers are given relief if they are retrenched?

SHRI ABID ALI: We have not given any concessions to the mine-owners.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Before they removed the export duty, was it not the duty of the Government to see that the mine-owners paid the workers for the lay-off period?

SHRI ABID ALI: That might have further delayed the reopening of the mines and the re-employment of the workers.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: May I know if, as a result of the removal of the export duty on manganese ore, any of the mines that were closed down have been re-opened and workers re-employed, and if so, how many?

SHRI ABID ALI: We have called for that information.

MINERS SUBSCRIBING TO THE PROVIDENT FUND

•155. SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state the total number of—

(i) coal mines workers; and

(ii) mica mines workers—who are at present subscribing to the Provident Fund?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): The number of workers in the Coal Mines subscribing to the Coal Mines Provident Fund