

SHRI B. GUPTA: I want to know whether they are aware of the fact that 27,000 workers of the jute mills had been retrenched. This is a matter which had been given publicity in many newspapers in India.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: What is the source of the information for the newspaper?

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is my hon. friend aware that the Indian Jute Mills Association has taken the stand that after the recent amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act that section which prohibits the retrenchment of workers during the pendency of any tribunal proceedings is invalid?

SHRI ABID ALI: If they have taken that view, they are wrong.

MODEL RULES UNDER THE PLANTATION LABOUR ACT

*54. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether model rules in respect of all the welfare measures provided for in the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, have been framed;

(b) if so, whether the said rules have been circulated to the parties concerned; and

(c) when the said rules are likely to be finalised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The draft model rules were considered at the 6th session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held recently at Ootacamund and the being finalised in the light of the discussions at that Conference.

PROVISION OF AMENITIES ON STATIONS

*55. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money which was spent on amenities provided at the stations on the Tapti Valley railway line on the Western Railway during the years 1951, 1952 and 1953;

(b) the amount which will be spent on amenities at such stations during the year 1954?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Rs. 12,411, during 1951-52, Rs. 42,200 in 1952-53 and Rs. 1,05,200 during 1953-54.

(b) Rs. 79,000 during 1954-55.

श्री डी० नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतला सकते हैं कि किन सुविधाओं पर ये रुपये खर्च किये गए ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These are passenger amenities and I thought that the hon. Member was well aware of the catalogue of amenities. They are like providing sheds on platforms, water facilities, increasing the third class waiting accommodation and such other things.

श्री डी० नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह जानते हैं कि इस लाइन के बहुत स्टेशनों पर पानी की कोई तजवीज नहीं है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : पानी की तजवीज नहीं है ?

श्री डी० नारायण : पीने के पानी की ।

श्री टी० पांडे : उनके कहने का मतलब है कि पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं है ।

श्री लाल बहादुर : तजवीज नहीं है तो तजवीज की जाएगी ।

श्री डी० नारायण : कब की जायेगी ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : यह तो पानी का बहुत जरूरी काम है और मेरा ख्याल है कि एमोनिटीज प्रोग्राम के सिलसिले में उसको हम पहले लेने की कोशिश करेंगे ।

श्री डी० नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह जानते हैं कि बहुत से स्टेशनों पर रात की गाड़ी के वक्त वहां बत्ती तक नहीं लगाई जाती ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : क्योंकि उधर के रहने वालों की रोशनी ज्यादा है ।

श्री डी० नारायण : यह बात कहां तक सच है कि जो तेल स्टेशन की बत्तियों बगैराह के खर्च के लिए दिया जाता है वह उसमें खर्च नहीं किया जाता है और वह वहां के कर्मचारियों के घरों पर खर्च के लिए जाता है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर : ऐसी शिकायतें आती हैं । हमारी कोशिश यह है कि उसे हम रोकें । इसमें आपको भी मदद करनी चाहिए और हम भी अपनी कोशिश करते हैं ।

FLOOR PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

*56. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to fix floor prices of food crops and commercial crops; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the fall in prices of agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) At present floor prices are fixed for cotton only. There is at present no such proposal in respect of other crops.

(b) The various steps taken so far by the Government to arrest undue fall in the prices of agricultural produce include: relaxations in controls; removal of the inter-State barriers; regulation of imports; liberalisation of exports; adjustments in export duties; an assurance by certain State Governments to purchase wheat if prices tend to fall below a certain prices, etc.

SHRI PRASADARAO: The Minister said that liberal exports are allowed and I want to know what were the exports allowed in the case of groundnut?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There is a complaint and pressure is being exercised by certain interests that we should allow more liberal exports but, Sir, we want to take the condition of the country as a whole into consideration, both on the manufacturing side as well as on the agricultural side.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it a fact that exports allowed so far are less than 4 per cent. of the surplus in the country?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The complaint is, as I have already pointed out, that we have allowed lesser exports; but for a long time the prices were so high that we did not think the interests of the consumers and the general public would be served by allowing more liberal exports.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Is it not a fact that there are certain crops like onions, potatoes, etc., which are perishable and which require cold storage facilities? Is there any scheme contemplated by the Government for the construction of cold storage facilities in every district and taluk?