

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR. Is it a fact that the tobacco cultivators of Rajasthan have complained about the levy of excessive amounts of excise duty, without any relation to the prevailing market prices and confiscation of their belongings in realisation of excise duty.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: It should be put to the Finance Minister. The Finance Ministry is levying excise duties. But I think there were some complaints and one of the Deputy Ministers went there and settled them.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Actually I sent this question to the Finance Minister and now I find it has been transferred to the Minister for Food and Agriculture. But so far as the Ministries of the Government are concerned, as they are working in a collective manner, I think some one should come up and give the answer.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I do it.

SHRI M. S. RANAWAT: Is it not a fact that in Rajasthan huge stocks of tobacco are still lying unsold because the proper market prices are not available all due to these taxation difficulties? I can quote the actual names of the villages where these huge stocks are lying unsold.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Yes. But when the prices have gone down, whose responsibility is it to sell all the tobacco at higher prices than are prevailing in the market?

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Sir, may I know whether the hon. Minister will

take early steps to see that more people are made tobacco-minded in this country?

(No reply)

WORKING OF THE EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SCHEME

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

(a) whether Government have received any report on the working of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme in the areas where it has been implemented up till now; and

(b) whether in the light of this report any changes in the working of the Scheme are found to be necessary and if so, what are the proposed changes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) Government receive progress reports and also annual reports on the working of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme from the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. These reports are also considered at the meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Corporation.

(b) In the light of the working of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, the Corporation has decided to make the Regional Boards more effective by investing them with wider administrative powers.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has the Government received any complaints either from the workers' organisations or from any other quarter regarding the deficiencies in the working of this scheme?

SHRI ABID ALI: Some complaints are received.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know what are those complaints precisely?

SHRI ABID ALI: If the hon. Member gives me notice, I will certainly

get the information and give it to him here.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But I had given notice, Sir, for the question is quite a comprehensive one.

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I would like to add merely this to what was said by my colleague here. The complaint generally of the employees is that their families also must be treated. We are looking into that matter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that one of the complaints is that the stocks of medicines supplied to the dispensaries are not adequate and that actually in the Punjab the stock of medicine was exhausted in three months?

SHRI ABID ALI: There was some complaint of that nature in Kanpur and it was attended to. But from the Punjab I have not heard of any such complaint.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: In how many States has this insurance scheme been put into effect?

SHRI ABID ALI: It is there in Delhi, in the city of Kanpur and in some cities in the Punjab.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: What is the programme of the Government for introducing this scheme in the other States also?

SHRI ABID ALI: We propose to implement this scheme in Calcutta and Howrah, for Madras State in Coimbatore, Nagpur in Madhya Pradesh and in the city of Bombay.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it one of the suggestions of the employees that full wages should be paid to them during sickness?

SHRI ABID ALI: 50 per cent wages are paid during the sickness period.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: Is it not a fact that this scheme is in existence in Hyderabad city also?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, the office is there; but the implementation of the scheme has not been started in Hyderabad. Much preliminary work and surveying has to be done before the actual implementation of the scheme is started in any area.

SHRI D. D. ITALIA: It is there, we ourselves pay for it.

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, 75 per cent of the wage is paid by the employer to cover the expenses.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Is the hon. Deputy Minister aware of the fact that this scheme has been there in the Madras State in the Coimbatore district and when he says that it is yet to be implemented in Madras, what are we to understand?

SHRI ABID ALI: It is true, as I have just replied to Shri Italia from Hyderabad, that we have offices in various industrial cities.....

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: It was inaugurated.

SHRI ABID ALI:..... to attend to the preliminary survey work. Once this is finished then the actual implementation of the scheme begins. It is not there at present.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: The hon. Deputy Minister misunderstood my question. Sir, my question is: Is it not a fact that one of the suggestions of the employees is that full wages should be paid to them during the period of sickness?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You pay 50 per cent. And their representation is that full pay should be paid to them.

SHRI ABID ALI: Certainly workers would wish for as much as it may be possible to obtain.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has the Government been able to form an idea of the exact incidence of sickness?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is a separate question, Sir.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: But that should come within the experience of the working of this scheme.

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

*108 MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the number of deaths which occurred in coal mines in the year 1953, due to accidents,

(b) the nature of such accidents, and

(c) the steps which have been taken to minimise the risk of life in these mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) 331.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix VII, Annexure No 50]

(c) The Mines Act, the Mines Regulations and the Mines Rules and Bye-laws are rigidly enforced Steps are also being taken to increase the frequency of inspections.

مولانا ایم فاروقی : جن لوگوں کی

جانیں اس سلسلے میں گئی ہیں ان

کے خاندان والوں کے لئے گورنمنٹ نے کیا

کوئی تاراں دینا تجویز کیا ہے -

†[MOULANA M FARUQI: Have Government proposed to give some compensation to the families of those people who have lost their lives in this connection?]

श्री आबिद अली : गवर्नमेंट तो कुछ नहीं दे सकती है। हा, वर्कमेस कम्पेनसेशन एक्ट के लिहाज से उन्हें जितना पैसा मिलना चाहिये उतना मिला ही होगा।

†[SHRI ABID ALI: Government cannot give anything But the families of those people must have got as much compensation as they were entitled to according to the Workmen's Compensation Act.]

مولانا ایم فاروقی - اس سلسلے میں

کننا دیا گیا -

†[MOULANA M. FARUQI: How much compensation was paid in this connection]

श्री आबिद अली : यह तो वर्कमेस कम्पेनसेशन एक्ट के लिहाज से मिलता है उसकी अलग अलग केस के मुताबिक अलग अलग रकमे हैं।

†[SHRI ABID ALI. Compensation is paid according to the Workmen's Compensation Act The amount of compensation differs in different cases]

مولانا ایم فاروقی : کیا گورنمنٹ

کو اس بات کی اطلاع ہے کہ ان کے

خاندان والوں کو جو کچھ دینا تجویز

ہوا تھا وہ بھی نہیں دیا گیا - اب

تک بہت سے لوگ ہیں جنکو کہ کئی

کئی مہینے تک نہیں دیا گیا -

†[MOULANA M FARUQI. Are Government aware of the fact that even those amounts which had been proposed to be paid to their families have not been paid? Still, there are many people to whom nothing has been paid for several months]

श्री आबिद अली : अगर किसी की नहीं मिला है और हमे उनकी तफसील दी गई तो जरूर हम खुशी से उनकी खिदमत करेंगे ताकि जल्दी ही उन्हें उनका हक मिल जाय।

†[SHRI ABID ALI If any person has not got any amount and information regarding him is furnished to us, we shall certainly help him, so that he may get soon what he is entitled to]

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Who is the enforcement authority at the mines?