

JAPANESE EXPERT TO ORGANISE VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN PLANTATIONS

*442. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state the period for which the Japanese expert invited by the Government of India to organise vocational training for plantation workers has been actually working in India and the progress that has been made in the work undertaken by him?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : The Expert has been in India for about 2 months. After holding discussions with the officers of the Labour Ministry at New Delhi, he went to Assam where he has been reviewing the position in the tea gardens with a view to selecting areas where demonstration projects might be set up as also industries which could be started on a cottage industry basis. He has so far completed preliminary inspection of the tea gardens in the Lower and Upper Assam. He has also had discussions with the officers of the State Governments and employers and workers representatives.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Why was a Japanese expert brought by the Government of India?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, so far the objection was with regard to the experts from the United States of America and U.K. and now we are having objections with regard to the Japanese experts. (*Laughter*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mazumdar wants to know the reasons for bringing in the Japanese expert.

SHRI ABID ALI: Because it was thought that for this particular work Japan might be able to help us.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Japan is not known to have experience in tea plantations.

SHRI ABID ALI: No plantations, Sir. The idea was to have advice in the exploration of the possibilities of developing alternative employment for the plantation workers not employed throughout the year and for organising suitable small cottage industries.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Through which agency was this expert invited?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know through which agency this expert was invited.

SHRI ABID ALI: Through the I.L.O.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: What are the vocations in which he is an expert?

SHRI ABID ALI: Cottage industries.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Was it the view taken that none of those who had anything to do with our Five Year Plan knew anything about cottage industries?

SHRI ABID ALI: We thought that he would be helpful for plantation areas particularly.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: What is the exact vocational training that the plantation workers in our country need?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is to be ascertained and therefore the expert has been invited.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: What is the nature of the vocational training proposed to be suggested by the Japanese expert that could be suitable here?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is what we are investigating, Sir.

SHRI B. RATH: What are the materials available in Assam for development of these cottage industries?

SHRI ABID ALI: That also we want to know through this enquiry.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Has the Government itself made any study?

(No reply.)

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is this expert in any way associated with the so called International Conference of Free Trade Unions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: "Is this expert in any manner associated with the so called International Conference of Free Trade Unions?"

SHRI ABID ALI: Regarding his association with trade unions we have no information. Sir. The arrangement was with the I.L.O. and they thought that an expert from Japan would be helpful and it was believed that this particular gentleman was qualified for the job for which he has been invited to help us.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Have we to meet any expenditure in this regard?

SHRI ABID ALI: We have to meet his tour expenses etc.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the expenditure and how is it to be met?

SHRI ABID ALI: The salary of the expert has to be paid by the International Labour Organization. India Government is liable to defray his accommodation charges, his tour expenses in India, medical charges and office expenses. The term is six months.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Did the Government feel that there was no Indian available to give advice in this matter and in the matter of developing cottage industries and that it was absolutely essential to have an expert from outside?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is what we believed.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Was the A.I.V.I.A. consulted before this expert was invited?

SHRI ABID ALI: No, Sir.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not an expert body on cottage industries in India, Sir?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Why was not that body consulted and how did the Government make sure that he was an expert on cottage industries?

SHRI ABID ALI: For this particular work we thought that the All India Village Industries Association would not be helpful.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it planned to send him to the southern regions?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir, after finishing his work in Assam he will go to the South also.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if it is to introduce some Japanese cottage industries that he has been brought here?

SHRI ABID ALI: Not Japanese but of Japanese pattern.

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA: How many times did he receive medical aid? *(Laughter.)*

(No reply.)

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, what is meant by 'Japanese pattern'?

SHRI ABID ALI: By that I meant the Japanese way of working and developing cottage industries.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is the Government aware that the main problem with our plantation labour today is not lack of vocational training but security of employment, a living wage and trade union rights?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a different thing.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will cottage industries be taken up by him?

SHRI ABID ALI: I have already replied to that question, Sir.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: So far as the cottage industries are concerned, is there any difference to be made for cottage industries required for plantation workers and for others?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir, there is considerable difference.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: In what way?

{No reply.}

SHRI B. RATH: What are the hours of employment of the plantation labour?

{No reply.}

LABOUR DISPUTES IN TEA GARDENS

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

(a) the number of labour disputes that occurred in the tea garden of Tripura during the last 6 months;

(b) the reasons for these disputes; and

(c) the manner in which these disputes were settled?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The number of disputes brought to the notice of the State Government during the period October 1952 to March 1953 was seventeen.

(b) The disputes related to nonpayment of wages, medical facilities, supply of rations, closures of gardens, etc.

(c) Of the 17 disputes, 12 have been settled by conciliation. Attempts are being made to settle the remaining 5 cases also similarly.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, as regards the other disputes which are pending settlement, whether

any steps have been taken to provide relief to the labourers?

SHRI ABID ALI: The question of relief does not arise, Sir. Only five disputes are pending and attempt is being made to settle them.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: These disputes arose out of the situation through which the tea industry is passing, particularly in the State of Tripura.

SHRI ABID ALI: That question has already been discussed here many a time.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Discussed without any satisfaction.

VISIT TO SOUTH INDIA BY THE DEPUTY LABOUR MINISTER

*444. SHRI M. MANJURAN: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Labour Minister visited South India during January 1953;

(b) what was the purpose of his tour;

(c) how many public meetings were addressed by him in the course of this tour and where;

(d) who were the organisers of these meetings;

(e) whether he addressed a public meeting at Cochin (Mattancheri);

(f) who were the other speakers on this occasion and under whose auspices and for what purpose the meeting was held; and

(g) what is the total amount of travelling and other allowances, if any, drawn by him during the period of the tour from the Central Government?

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