

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.