

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.

(b) To study the service, working and housing conditions of the workers, besides attending to routine work.

(c) '64 meetings were addressed: 35 in Tamil Nad, 18 in Travancore-Cochin State and 11 in Kerala.

(d) Trade Unions, Municipality and other organisations.

(e) Yes.

(f) Shri Panampally Govinda Menon, Minister for Labour, Travancore-Cochin, Shri B. K. Nair, President. Indian National Trade Union Congress, Kerala Branch, and several other speakers addressed this meeting.

The public meeting at Cochin (Mattancheri) was held under the auspices of several trade union organisations to communicate the grievances of the workers to Government.

(g) The period of the tour in South India was of 16 days. The details of the expenses are mentioned below: —

			Rs. A. P.
Railway Fare	.	.	653-3-0
Air Fare	.	.	185-0-0
Road Mileage	.	.	286-0-0
Daily Allowance	.	.	72-8-0
TOTAL	.	.	1,196-11-0

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Will the Minister state whether at the meeting addressed at Mattancheri a notice was published and whether it did not contain that it was for inaugurating a branch of the INTUC?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, there were two meetings at that place that evening. I have no idea about the first meeting but the meeting which I addressed had not this purpose.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Which were the various trade unions that attended the meeting at Mattancheri? The hon. Minister said "various trade unions at-

tended that meeting". May I know which are those various trade unions?;

SHRI ABID ALI: More than half a dozen trade unions. Most of the names were in the local language and I am sorry I do not remember them.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Did any Communist organization in South India approach the Deputy Minister while he was on tour in South India?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir, they approached me at some places.

AN HON. MEMBER: Which Communist Party?

(No reply.)

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Did the Deputy Minister address any of their meetings?

SHRI ABID ALI: They did not invite me to attend their meetings but they met me in groups and discussed with me matters connected with labour affairs.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is it not the usual practice. Sir, and has it not happened previously also, not only with the present Minister but also with other Ministers of different Departments that such unions are being inaugurated whether they belong to Trade Unions or merchants or peasants or other people?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir, it is the common practice.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Should I take it that the Minister did not know the purpose of the meeting which he addressed?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, with regard to the previous question I said that it is common practice, but at this particular meeting that was not the purpose.

With regard to the other question, I am sorry I did not catch him.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: I have seen the notice stating that it was for the inauguration of the INTUC and I am surprised to hear that the Minister did not understand the purpose of the meeting which he was addressing.

SHRI ABID ALI: I did not say I did not understand the purpose of the meeting. The Branch of the INTUC in Kerala has been in existence for Ave years' and therefore there was no occasion for the inauguration of the Branch in 1953. As for the purpose of the meeting I have already stated. Sir, that the workers wanted to place their grievances before the Government and it was for that purpose that the meeting was held. Had it been for the purpose of inauguration of I.N.T.U.C. Branch I would have frankly admitted because there is nothing wrong in doing such a thing.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Did the Minister enquire from those labour unions from whom he had taken the grievances whether they were not labour unions started in opposition to the existing labour unions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a long argument.

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes. Sir. As a matter of fact a large number of workers met me at Cochin Port and told me that there was a union under the auspices of the Revolutionary Communist Party or some such thing and that it was working to the detriment of the workers and therefore only a very small number of workers were supporting that. Union. A lai-ge number of workers wanted to have another Union and therefore they were organising a really representative union of workers working in the Port area.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Did the Minister enquire whether these representations were true?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a long discussion.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Sir, the Minister has shown favour towards one organisation and ill-will towards another organisation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

RAILWAY COACHES BUILT BY HINDUSTAN-FACTORY

°445. SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway coaches so far built by the Hindustan Factory, Bangalore;

(b) the number of such coaches allotted to the Southern Railway; and

(c) whether such coaches are attached daily to the Nilagiri Express, Mangalore Express and the Cochin-Express on the Southern Railway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) 362 up to 31st March* 1953.

(b) 26.

(c) No..

"SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know why the Southern Railway was-allotted such a small number of coaches?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, they have been allotted as per the replacement requirements of the various Railways. Out of 550 coaches 81 coaches have so far been allotted to the Southern Railway out of which 26 have been received by them and put on various lines. When they receive the rest, they will be attached to the trains-which the Member has in view.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Is it not a fact that the three trains mentioned in the Question are the most important trains in the Southern Railway and if so why they were not provided with these coaches supplied by the Hindustan Factory.