

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Are the Government taking note of complaints that are appearing in papers, or are they leaving it to the Department?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Definitely, Government is taking quite a good deal of note of complaints appearing in the papers and also of compliments being showered, one of which was that a letter dropped on 29th from U.K. reached here on 31st.

TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON TEA INDUSTRY

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

(a) what are the terms of the bi-partite agreement between the representatives of tea garden labourers and employers arrived at during the recent tripartite conference on tea industry; and

(b) whether the terms of the said agreement are being implemented.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) A copy of the resolution containing the agreement between representatives of employers and workers in the meeting of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held at Calcutta in December, 1952, is laid on the Table of the Council.

(b) Government have since announced their decisions on the proposals contained in the resolution. The question of implementation of the other terms of the agreement does not arise, as the proposal in regard to refund of the excise duty has not been accepted by Government.

Copy of the Resolution adopted by the Industrial Committee on Plantations.

"This committee is of the view that the report of the Official Team is unsatisfactory in that it has failed to furnish adequate statistical data relating to the industry and labour and that no decisions can be taken on the basis of this report. The committee, therefore, suggests that a

tripartite commission with regional sub-committees be appointed by the Central Government immediately to investigate into the cost structure of the industry. The committee requests that the commission should be asked to report by the 15th February 1953, and that the Government may be pleased to pass orders thereon by the 15th March 1953. Pending the report of the tripartite commission, the committee recommends as an emergency measure that relief by way of refund of the duty collected by the Central Government may be given as follows:—

Cachar, Darjeeling and Tripura—
3 as. per lb.

Dooars, Terai and Central Travancore (Low-grown area)—2 as. per lb.

Assam and Madras States—1 anna per lb.

The committee is of opinion that the refund should be granted on tea despatched from the gardens in the abovesaid areas with effect from the 1st April 1952, until further notice. Provided that no such refund shall be made to gardens which have closed down and do not reopen immediately after the announcement of relief by the Central Government. The gardens which have suffered loss during the year 1951 and/or 1952 should be granted relief by way of long-term loans on puisne mortgages of the block assets to the extent of the short fall which they had during the said period.

Where Government are satisfied that any of the gardens had not suffered loss during the financial year 1952-53 Government may direct that the amount refunded shall be spent on labour welfare such as housing, health, education, etc.

Should relief be granted by the Government, producers feel that there will be no further closure or retrenchment or reduction in the earnings of labour till the tripartite commission reports, and it is further

agreed that the refund shall be contingent upon the working of the gardens without retrenchment or reduction in the earnings of labour, pending the report of the commission. Producers will also endeavour to reopen the gardens which were closed down in 1952.

No revision by any State Government Committee of the minimum wages awards shall be made to the detriment of labour after the acceptance by the Government of these proposals and during the pendency of the enquiry by the tripartite commission."

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How is it, Sir, that the tripartite commission, which was recommended by the Conference and which was to have submitted its report by the 15th February 1953, has not yet been constituted? How does the Minister explain that?

SHRI ABID ALI: I have not been able to follow, Sir, how this supplementary arises out of this question.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: I want to know whether Government was a party to this Resolution?

SHRI ABID ALI: No, Sir, the Government was not a party to this Resolution.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, why the conference was convened?

SHRI ABID ALI: It was convened because it was to be convened.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the conference was convened by the Government to take some decisions on the recommendations of the Rajaram Committee regarding certain matters?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir. And we are following the procedure. On the 27th of this month a conference has been convened at Shillong to go further into this matter and both the Central

and the State Governments are very active to do their part of the job to relieve the distress which is existing there.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact, Sir, that a large number of labourers have been retrenched and their wages have been cut and the price of rice supplied to them has been increased.

SHRI ABID ALI: The situation has considerably improved since then.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Does the Government mean by improvement in situation that a large number of workers are thrown to the jaws of death from starvation?

SHRI ABID ALI: The number has considerably decreased.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: During the last session I asked the Labour Minister whether the Government stuck to its assurance given on the floor of this House that no privileges of the labourers would be curtailed and the hon. Minister gave the answer that there might be some changes for the better. May I now take it, Sir, that the Government is guilty of a criminal breach of faith?

SHRI ABID ALI: No, Sir. There has been no breach of faith.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is the Industrial Committee the same as the Tripartite Committee?

SHRI ABID ALI: No, Sir. It is different.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Was a tripartite conference held?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: When?

SHRI ABID ALI: In December.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: That is the Industrial Committee, you are speaking of. I want to know whether the Industrial Committee is the same as the Tripartite Committee or it is different?

SHRI ABID ALI: This is the Tripartite Committee concerning this particular industry? There are several tripartite committees and conferences which we have, concerning particular industries and also general.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, when the Resolution was passed by the Industrial Committee, and whether Government representatives were present there or not?

SHRI ABID ALI: No, Sir.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How is it Sir, that a resolution was passed by a tripartite conference without one of the parties agreeing to it?

SHRI ABID ALI: The resolution was passed at a meeting attended by the representatives of the employers and the workers and it was communicated to the committee.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the Industries Committee have recommended that there should be a tripartite conference?

SHRI ABID ALI: We are pursuing the matter with all earnestness. Subsequent to this committee there was a conference of Labour Ministers where also this subject was considered. Arising from that, it was decided that as these things primarily concerned Assam and Bengal, we should convene a meeting there and the Minister himself is going there and we hope that something substantial will materialise.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: If the price of foodstuffs increases from Rs. 5 to Rs. 17, is it not a cut in the wages of the workers? And if so, how does the Government explain this with reference to the assurance that the workers' conditions will not deteriorate?

SHRI ABID ALI: The only thing that I can say is that we will do all that is possible and, all that we can do is being done and with this purpose only this conference has been convened at Shillong.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

OFFICERS OF THE EX-MYSORE STATE RAILWAYS

6. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing:

(a) the number of officers of the gazetted and non-gazetted cadres in the Mysore State Railway when Government took over the said Railway;

(b) the salaries of the officers referred to in part (a);

(c) the number of officers who were retained in the gazetted cadre after integration and their respective salaries;

(d) the number of officers who were in the gazetted cadre before integration and who were reverted to non-gazetted cadre after integration and their salaries after their reversion; and

(e) the number of officers, if any, whose services were dispensed with after integration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Gazetted: 48; Non-gazetted: 9,865.

(b) Gazetted:—

4 on Rs. 800—50—1,000.

13 on Rs. 500—25—750.

26 on Rs. 250—20—450.

5 on Rs. 300—25—500.

Non-gazetted:—

The staff were on scales of pay ranging from Rs. 180—300 to Rs. 25—30 per month.

(c) 30 officers were retained in the gazetted cadre and were brought on to the following prescribed scales:—

9 on Rs. 600—1,150.

12 on Rs. 350—850.

9 on Rs. 275—800.