

them Rs. 2-13-0, Rs. 2-12-0 and Rs. 2-8-0 and the same category of labour is paid only Rs. 2-2-0 by the contractors? Does it amount to proper payment?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, there are, of course, differences in the payment by the Department and by the contractors.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Why not these works be taken up by the Department itself?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We cannot say one way or the other whether the work could be done by the Department or not. If it is found cheaper, certainly it would be done departmentally.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: What is the criterion of cheapness or dearness? Is it the payment to the worker?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL: Is it not a fact that the contractors who get the commission do not pay the workers same wages which Government pay to their workers when departmentally managed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is obvious, Sir.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Do the Government insist upon the 'fair wages' clause in respect of contract labour in such matters?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do the Government insist on fair wages even with regard to the labour employed by a contractor?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, but the wages have not been fixed.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Is it a fact that a large number of labourers have been retrenched from the Cochin Port?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Retrenchment will depend upon the volume of the work that is being carried out at a particular moment.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is it not the object of the 'fair wages' clause to fix the rates of wages?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I would like to have notice for detailed answers to this question.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: If it is cheaper to have the work done by contractors, why not Government do everything on a contract basis?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not a straight rule.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: Is there any particular reason for giving the items referred to in the reply to the contractors and for not giving other items? Why are two kinds of systems being followed, one departmental and one by contractors?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: If it is easier for the work to be executed by the Department without even calling for tenders, it is done so. In case where the tenders are found to be higher than what it would cost, if it is done departmentally, then also it would be done departmentally.

I.L.O. PRODUCTIVE MISSION

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

(a) the period for which the International Labour Organisation Productive Mission has been in India;

(b) the nationality of the members of the said Mission;

(c) the total amount of expenditure so far incurred by Government on this Mission; and

(d) the results achieved by the work studies carried out so far by the Mission?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The Mission is in India since 5th December,

1952. Its present term expires on 31st May 1953. The question of extension of the term is under consideration.

(b) The nationalities of the experts are:—

- (1) Prof. T. U. Matthew ... British
- (2) Mr. G. L. Peace ... British
- (3) Mr. K. J. Shone ... British
- (4) Mr. James Shearer ... British
- (5) Mr. A. W. Baker ... British

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 21,835 has been incurred by the Government of India during the financial year 1952-53

(d) Work studies and method studies are still in progress. Prof. Matthew, the leader of the I.L.O. Productivity Mission, returned to India on the 3rd April 1953 to assist in surveying the results of the project and making recommendations for further action. He will furnish a preliminary report before he leaves for the U.K. about the end of April 1953.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it a fact that the main purpose of this work studies is to find out the best means of retrenching the workers and to increase their work to the maximum?

SHRI ABID ALI: That is not the intention.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, is the Government aware that already a large number of workers in the jute and textile industries have been discharged?

SHRI ABID ALI: It is not due to the work of the Mission.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has the Government received a representation from the jute and engineering workers for the setting up of a tripartite committee to find out the best means of running the industries profitably?

SHRI ABID ALI: The representation, if any, might have been addressed to the Government of Bengal, not to the Central Government.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that recently a representation by 20,000 jute workers has been submitted to the Government of India and particularly to the Prime Minister?

SHRI ABID ALI: I am not aware of it.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: How is it that the Labour Minister is not aware of such a vital matter concerning labour

SHRI ABID ALI: If it has not been brought to my notice, it has not been brought.

*471. [Postponed to 28th April 1953.]

REPORT OF THE FUEL ECONOMY ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*472. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps which are being taken to implement the recommendations of the Fuel Economy Enquiry Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): The Report is being examined.

SHRI B. RATH: Is there any harm in submitting before the House the Report of the Fuel Economy Enquiry Committee even if it is being examined by Government?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I would like to have the question repeated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you lay a copy of the Report on the Table?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Six copies have been placed in the Library.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are out of date. (Laughter).

FOODGRAINS OBTAINED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN EXCHANGE OF JUTE GOODS

*473. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for Food