

Secondly, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, said in the other House that there has been an improvement in the situation and many labourers have been taken back into employment and others, he hoped, may later be taken back into employment. I admit, Sir, that some of them may have been re-employed but that is not the whole picture. Those who have been taken back into employment and those who were in employment are subjected to other cuts and other curtailment of privileges. In most of the gardens they have resorted to three or four days work in the week; then wages have been cut from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. and work load has been increased to such an extent that in the majority of the gardens no worker can finish his daily task in one day. Then, besides this, there is retrenchment, victimisation and so on and so forth. So, Sir, I want a categorical assurance from the Government that these things will be put a stop to and this relief will reach the labourers.

About the point that the consumers should not be taxed, I made that point during the course of my speech. So I do not like to dilate on that point.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have nothing to add, Sir. How can I give such an assurance, Sir? I can only say, Sir, that every effort will be made to see

that this relief will go to the labourers, as far as possible.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be returned"

The motion was adopted.

EXTENSION OF SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to make an announcement.

According to present programme, the Council of States is to adjourn on 8th May. I understand that important Government business which still remains to be transacted during this session will require an extension of the present session. It has accordingly been decided that the Council should sit up to the 15th May 1953.

During the extended period, four days namely, the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th, will also be allotted for Questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Council stands adjourned till 8-15 A.M. tomorrow.

The Council then adjourned till a quarter past eight of the clock on Friday, the 24th April 1953.