

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I am not prepared to answer that.

SHRI B. RATH : Do the Government think that this year's purchases will cost less than the purchases that were made previously ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : This year's purchases cost considerably less than last year's purchases.

SHRI B. RATH : Does the Government think that the freight rate will also be decreased in this year's purchase ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will the freight rates also be decreased in this year ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : It is too early to say, Sir.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it a fact that the Food Minister quoted the price of Rs. 16 per maund in one of his interviews in the newspapers ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I want notice for that, Sir.

SHRI B. RATH : Will the Government please let us know the percentage by which the price will be decreased ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I have said 'considerably' ; I mean, the prices will be comparatively cheaper this year.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : As regards current year's purchases, is the quantity less or is the overall price going to be less ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : The overall price will be less.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : How do the prices compare with the prices of procured wheat in India ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Imported prices are always higher than those for the indigenous varieties.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : May I ask the hon. Minister whether the

Government of India is going to subsidise before it is distributed to the wholesalers and consumers ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I am not prepared to answer that ; it is for the Finance Minister.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : What were the maximum and minimum rates at which the indigenous wheat was procured during the current year ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I want notice for that, Sir.

SHRI B. GUPTA : Is it a fact that the United States has increased the freight charges during the recent months ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : It is too early.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : What is the price charged by Russia ?

(No answer.)

#### STRIKE IN THE TALCHER COALFIELD

\*88. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a strike was started by the labourers of the Talcher Coalfield Ltd., on November 2, 1952 ; if so, what was the cause of the strike ;

(b) whether any representation was made to Government by the labourers of the said company for sending the Chief Labour Commissioner to Talcher for conciliation of the dispute ; and

(c) whether any attempts were made by the junior officers for conciliation of these disputes ; and if so, with what result ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) Yes. The workers are on strike demanding payment of arrears of bonus, cash value of food concessions, wages, dearness allowance and overtime pay due to the workers under the award of the Industrial Tribunal, and

regular supply of rice and *dal* at concessional rates in the future.

(b) Yes.

(c) Several attempts were made by both junior and senior officers of the conciliation machinery to bring about a settlement but without success.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : When was this award published ?

SHRI ABID ALI : In 1948-49.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Why was the implementation delayed so long ?

SHRI ABID ALI : The management was not able to pay. It was reported that the payment was beyond their capacity.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Is it a fact that the management changed hands only in the year 1951 ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir, it is true.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Is it not a fact that the present management is running at a loss while the previous management was running at a profit ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, but, the new management has paid a.....

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Is the Government going to prosecute the management ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir. Government is going to prosecute.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : How long did it take between the award and the refusal of the Company not to abide by that award and the time at which the prosecution proceedings were started ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Continuous efforts were made. Prosecution was not the only objective. The management could have been prosecuted and

fined Rs. 200 but, that would not have been in the interests of the workers. The attempt of the Conciliation Department was that the workers should be benefited, not only that the management should be prosecuted. Because of its efforts, Rs. 80,000 have been paid by the management to the workers.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Does it usually take about 3 years between the giving of the award and the implementation of the award under the labour policy of the Government ?

SHRI ABID ALI : It should not take even a month, Sir ; but it is a very peculiar case and it is very unfortunate. We appreciate that the workers have been put to inconvenience but the Conciliation Department has been alive to its responsibilities and has been trying to help them to its utmost capacity.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : What further steps do the Government propose to take to see that this award is implemented, especially in view of the fact that what appears to be a justifiable strike is going on at the moment ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Sir, it is unfortunate again that the workers have been advised to go on strike. They themselves and their leaders are worried about it and we are here to help them out of their difficulties.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Does the implementation of the award depend upon the sweet will of the management ?

SHRI ABID ALI : No, Sir, the previous and present managements are responsible.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : What useful purpose will be served if the Government is unable to enforce it ?

SHRI ABID ALI : It is not that Government has not been able to enforce it ; Government has been helping and, as I had said, because of our efforts Rs. 80,000 were paid to the workers.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Will it not be thought that the Government is not firm in the matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : No, not at all.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO : Did the Chief Labour Commissioner visit the troubled spot in this year, before the trouble commenced ?

SHRI ABID ALI : The Chief Labour Commissioner had been there.

SHRI B. RATH : Is it not a fact that the strike was not a sudden one, but after repeated attempts made by the workers to arrive at a settlement ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Yes, Sir, and a settlement was also arrived at according to which payment was to be made by stages. Again, the workers were advised not to accept that and the employers took opportunity of this situation and backed out.

(Shri B. Rath stood up.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sit down. Shri Gopinath Singh†.

AN HON. MEMBER : He is absent.

#### FISHING INDUSTRY

\*91. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Will the Minister for FOOD and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any foreign technicians in India to assist in the development of the fishing industry of the country ; if so, how many and from which countries ; and

(b) who pays those technicians, the Technical Co-operation Programme of the U. S. Government or the Central Government or State Government concerned ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) and (b). Yes. There are six foreign fisheries

experts in India. A statement furnishing the requisite information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 19.]

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : May I know what is the amount set aside for the development of fisheries from the Technical Co-operation programmes of the U. S. Government ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I have not got the figures. I am prepared to give the information after collecting it from the office.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : In view of the fact that Russians are experts in fishing in troubled waters, will the Government.....

(No answer.)

PROF. N. R. MALKANI : Is the Government of India aware that the seacoast of Kutch is a place to be developed for fisheries ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I think all seacoasts are.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI : I am talking of Kutch because it is a backward State which requires development.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I will take the information and get what further information I can.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Are there any Indian fishing experts who have gone abroad ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : No.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : What is the condition of the West Coast fisheries ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Travancore-Cochin comes first in the *per capita* consumption of fish. Then comes West Bengal.

†For answers to Questions Nos. 89 and 90 vide columns 664 and 665 in *fra*.