

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether any plan was submitted, before the construction of the railway colony there, to the Railway Board or the Railway Ministry?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I don't know but it should have been.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : How long is it since this matter has been brought to the Government's notice?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We have taken action and the work is proceeding.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : How long is it since this matter has been brought to the notice of the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has no information.

SHRI B. RATH : How could a colony be established without water supply arrangements?

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : In view of the fact that the Government is satisfied that the water supply in Siliguri is not satisfactory, even after that Government is saying that it will take 3 more years to make sufficient water supplies available. How is it?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Because the material has to arrive before it can be completed. That is going to take some time.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : How can men live without water for 3 years?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It is not as if they are without water.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But it is not of the right quality.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Is that water not harmful?

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Will Government consider making any temporary arrangements for water supply?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : There are already some tube-wells which are very shallow of course, and 70 open

ring wells and from these water is *at* present available.

#### TEA GARDEN LABOUR

\*196. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representations from any tea garden labour unions in Assam and West Bengal, requesting for the implementation of the Plantations Labour Act; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take on those representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) Yes. Representations have been received from some labour unions requesting implementation of the Plantations Labour Act.

(b) The official team on tea industry has recommended *inter alia* that implementation of the Act should be postponed for a period of two years, so far as the tea industry is concerned. A tripartite conference is being held at Calcutta on the 19th and 20th December 1952 to consider the team's recommendations concerning labour.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether the Government has taken any decision?

SHRI ABID ALI : With regard to the recommendations of the official team no decision has been taken. It will be considered at the tripartite conference about which I have just made a reference.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government is putting any suggestions before the tripartite conference in this connection?

SHRI ABID ALI : Government wants to know the reaction of the representatives of the workers before coming to a final decision.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government stands by the assurance given by the Finance

Minister during the last session that the existing rights of the labour would be safeguarded ?

SHRI ABID ALI : Government will do all that is possible to safeguard the interests of the workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants to know whether the Government will stand by the assurance that the privileges they now have will not in any way be curtailed.

SHRI ABID ALI : As I have said, under the present circumstances some change may be necessary but Government will do all that is possible to safeguard their interests.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Some change for the better.

SHRI B. RATH : Why is the Act which was passed not going to be enforced ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There is no question of not enforcing the Act. It was passed last year and necessary rules had to be framed and the work is in progress. We have not decided not to enforce the Act.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : May I know to which particular industry in Assam and Bengal this particular Act will apply ?

SHRI ABID ALI : In the first place it will apply to tea, coffee and rubber plantations but any State Government may, subject to previous approval of the Central Government, by notification in the official Gazette, apply it to any other class of plantations within the State.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Are there plantations other than tea in Assam and Bengal ?

SHRI ABID ALI : There are some.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : What are they ?

SHRI ABID ALI : In the States of Bengal and Assam, of course there is tea and cinchona.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is there no other plantation to which this Act will be applicable ? Because there are only these—tea, coffee and rubber in Bengal and Assam.

SHRI ABID ALI : The Act has not been applied to any plantation as yet.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Is the Government aware that the Government own the cinchona plantations in West Bengal ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Apart from these tea gardens, he is giving information that there are cinchona plantations.

#### ABOLITION OF FIRST CLASS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

\*197. SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state what progress has been made in the implementation of the scheme for the abolition of first class on Indian Railways ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : A statement showing the sections on which first class accommodation has been withdrawn from 1st October 1952 has been placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 50.]

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : What are the advantages ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : They were fully explained during the budget discussion last year.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Have the administrative and financial aspects of this been examined by the Government ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The financial aspect does not arise because