

the Hyderabad Government and one of the Secretaries to the Government of India for the settlement of the claim preferred by the Hyderabad Government ?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN : I believe the matter was considered.

RAJARAM COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

*305. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations made by the Rajaram Committee regarding the supply of food to the tea garden labourers at subsidised rates ;

(b) if so, what is the decision; and

(c) whether Government propose to consult the representatives of tea garden labourers before any such decision is implemented ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) and (b). The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

(c) This is one of the subjects that will be discussed at the forthcoming tripartite conference to be held on the 19th and the 20th December 1952, at Calcutta.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government is going to place any suggestions before that conference ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : There will be discussion, and there will be suggestions put forward on behalf of Government if necessary.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : I want to know whether Government will put forward any suggestions before the conference in this matter.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : The conference will consider what should be the concessions which should be

given to labour, and all relevant suggestions are bound to come up. I cannot anticipate what the suggestions will be.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know what answer the Government of India will give to the representation of the West Bengal Government in this matter ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should wait a little before answering that question. Not now. It is premature now.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : This question was answered in connection with an unstarred question. It was stated that the Government of India did reply to the representation of the West Bengal Government.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should like to have notice.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether the Government stands by its previous assurance that the existing privileges of the labourers will not be curtailed ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : All these questions will be considered by the tripartite conference. What the precise effect of the deliberations of the conference will be, it is a little premature to say. The conference is coming on immediately. I hope the hon. Member appreciates that.

EXCISE DUTY ON COFFEE

*306. SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the excise duty collected on coffee during 1951-52 ;

(b) what percentage of such collection was spent on increasing coffee production ; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be nil what are the reasons for not spending any amount to increase the production of coffee ?