

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI :
That is the idea, Sir.

COFFEE BOARD

*29. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a representation dated the 30th April 1952 from the Indian Coffee Board Employees Association requesting for the inclusion of elected labour representative on the Board ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter will be considered at the appropriate time.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Any approximation that the hon. Minister will give to this appropriate time ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : Well, it all depends on when the appropriate time really arises. I am afraid I cannot project my ideas into the realm of conjecture.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I know, Sir, whether the principle of associating labour representatives on the Board is accepted or rejected by the Government ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : At the present moment the principle has been accepted. In the present constitution of the Board three persons representing labour, one each to be nominated in consultation with labour organisations by the Governments of Madras and Mysore and one to be nominated in consultation with labour organisations by the Chief Commissioner of Coorg is provided for. So the principle has been accepted, but whether we are conceding the principle of accepting the recommendations of the labour employed by the Coffee Board is a different matter altogether.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I know what form this consultation with the labour organisations has taken, and which are the labour organisations which Government have been consulting ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The consultations that I have indicated are in each case by the Government of Madras, by the Government of Mysore, and by the Chief Commissioner of Coorg. The body as such—the Coffee Board—is an autonomous body. For the nomination of three labour members, these three Governments have got to consult labour organisations. What methods they adopt and how they come to decisions, is a question to which I am unable to give an answer.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it possible for the Hon. Minister to give such information at a later date after getting it from the respective Governments ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I can only try, but I cannot promise

TEA ENQUIRY BODY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation was made to the Government on the 29th May last by the Darjeeling District Chin Kaman Mazdur Union requesting that a representative of the said Union be invited by the Tea Enquiry Body set up by the Government of India, so that the said Union may place its point of view before the latter body ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government on that representation ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) Yes.

(b) It is under consideration.

SHRI V. G. GOPAL : Has a representation been received from the Indian National Plantation Workers' Federation that they should be consulted by the Enquiry Committee?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : I can only say that a number of representations have been received from labour organisations that they should be consulted. I cannot say precisely whether the particular body which the hon. Member has in mind has asked to be consulted.

TEA ENQUIRY BODY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress submitted to the Tea Enquiry Body in June last a memorandum on the present crisis in the tea industry; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) Yes.

(b) It is under consideration.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Do the Government contemplate inviting further details from that organisation?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The position is this. We have appointed a very small official Committee to go into certain aspects of the tea industry in India and advise Government in framing their policies in future. With respect to some demands made by the tea industry, the Committee has consulted the planters organisation and before finalising their report they wish to consult labour organisations. They are in touch with the Labour Ministry of the Government of India and the State Governments so that they can be advised whom to consult. That is the stage in which the Committee's work stands now. I think that

subject to the advice being tendered by the Labour Ministry and the State Governments, the Committee will consult all concerned interests.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know what is the procedure followed in deciding which unions to consult?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The Committee is an *ad hoc* Committee. We want some information very quickly. We have not given them terms of reference, nor have we indicated any procedure for them. They have to go on on *ad hoc* basis. All that we suggest is that in regard to consultation with labour interests they can be guided by the advice of the Labour Ministry here and presumably of the counterpart in the various States. I can say nothing more than that at the present moment.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government is considering the question of convening a tripartite conference on this subject?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : It might arise, or it might not. After we receive the report of the Committee, if it happens that the labour interests will have to be taken into account in any re-adjustment of our policies towards the tea industry, undoubtedly my hon. colleague on my right (the hon. Labour Minister) will insist on a tripartite conference.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM : May I know what advice the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has received from the Labour Ministry on the question of representation of labour interests?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The Commerce and Industry and the Labour Ministries happen to form one part of a whole Government, and it is not the practice to divulge the advice given by one section of the Government to another.

SHRI B. GUPTA : Is the Committee aware that it is not a question of taking labour into account, but of taking them into confidence?