

SHIPS BUILT AT VISAKHAPATNAM SHIPYARD

65. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) how many ships were built at Visakhapatnam Shipyards before the Government took over the shipyard ;

(b) what were their tonnage and class ;

(c) whether these vessels are in service, and if so, where ; and

(d) whether the periodic survey reports of these ships are entirely satisfactory ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) and (b). Seven ships of 8000 dead weight tons each and one small vessel of 611 dead weight tons were built at the Yard before the Hindustan Shipyards Limited took it over from the Scindia Company on 1st March 1952. All these ships were classed by Lloyds as “+100—A1”, the highest classification for such vessels.

(c) Except for the small vessel which is at present lying idle at Calcutta awaiting employment, all the others are in service and are employed in the Indian coastal trade.

(d) To our knowledge they are satisfactory.

[QUESTION TRANSFERRED FROM THE LIST OF UNSTARRED QUESTIONS FOR THE 16TH JULY 1952.]

BENEFITS FOR LABOUR IN K.G.F.

71. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether mining labour has been excluded from the benefits of the Minimum Wages Act, the State Insurance Act and the Provident Fund Act ;

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(b) whether Government have received any representations from the labour in K. G. F. requesting the extension of the benefits of those Acts to mining labour, and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what action has been taken by Government on the representations ?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI) : (a) Labour in the mica mines is covered by the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, and the Provident Fund Act, 1952 are not however applicable to mining labour.

(b) The Government of India received a copy of a representation addressed to the Mysore Government by the Labour Association, Kolar Gold Fields, Electricity Department, wherein they pleaded for the early fixation of minimum rates of wages by implementing the recommendations of the K. G. F. Minimum Wages Committee, set up under the Mysore Minimum Wages Act, 1949, prior to the extension of the Central Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to the Part B States. No other representation has been received from any source.

(c) The Central Government is considering the question of the inclusion of the Gold Mining Industry in Part I of the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act.

REQUEST FOR HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION ON HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

MR. CHAIRMAN (addressing Mr. H. D. Rajah) : The question hour is now over. Before we proceed to other business, what have you got to say ?

SHRI H. D. RAJAH (Madras) : Before we proceed to other business, I would beg to submit that the answers with regard to the handloom industry given by the Industry and Commerce Minister were as vague as they have