

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

*3i. 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 I

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

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : It is a matter of language—a distinction the import of which I cannot sufficiently comprehend.

CLOSURE OF TEA GARDENS IN WEST BENGAL AND ASSAM

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

(a) the number of tea gardens in West Bengal and Assam that have been closed recently due to financial stringency ;

(b) the number of labourers affected by the closure of those gardens ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Government to provide relief to the labourers thus affected ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T.T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : (a) and (b). Precise information is not available and is being collected.

(c) Suitable action will be taken on receipt of the information if it is considered necessary.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government is contemplating the introduction of a State Insurance scheme for tea garden labour?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI : The question must be addressed to another quarter.

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

*33. SHRI D. NARAYAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of abducted women recovered from East and West Pakistan respectively every year since the 15th August 1947 ;

(b) the number of such women (i) who have been accepted by their old families or relations and (if) who are being cared for by Government ;

(c) what annual expenditure is being incurred by Government on the rehabilitation of those women ; and

(d) the number of abducted women returned respectively to East and West Pakistan every year since 1947 ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU) : (a) From West Pakistan, in :

1947 (from 6-12-47 to 31-12-47)	564
1948	5,099
1949	609
1950	871
1951	743
1952 (up to 30-6-1952) . .	320
TOTAL	8,206

The required information relating to East Pakistan is not readily available. It will, however, be placed on the Table of the House in due course. It might be added that there are not many cases in East Pakistan.

(b) 8,071 out of those recovered from West Pakistan have been restored to their original families. In the case of 131 of them it has not yet been found possible to trace their relations. Four of them died in camps.

(c) After restoration to their original families, the recovered women are treated as other refugees for purposes of rehabilitation. The question of expenditure on the rehabilitation of such women only, therefore, does not arise.

(d)- To West Pakistan, in :

1947-48 (from 6-12-47 to 31-12-48)	8,872
1949	2,680
1950	1,430
1951	1,974
1952 (up to 30-6-52)	897
TOTAL	16,853

The required information relating to East Pakistan is not readily available. It will be placed on the Table of the House later.