

(c) the number of workers rendered unemployed as a result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes, in the Hingir-Rampur colliery

(b) The reasons are reported to be gross indiscipline and lawlessness on the part of the workers, resulting in damage to the Company's property and assault on the colliery officials, including the Manager, who later succumbed to the injuries

(c) About 1800

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether it is a fact that the dispute between labour and management in that colliery was going on for a long time, it was not decided and ultimately these things have happened?

Shri Abid Ali: This particular incident took place because it was found that the workers were over-paid on previous occasions and the management wanted to collect the whole amount on this particular day. The workers wanted that it should not be collected. Thereafter there were negotiations. It was decided that the amount should not be collected on that date. Some workers received payment. When payment was going on, others indulged in these violent activities.

Shri Supakar: Are there any attempts by the Government of India to put an end to this lock-out?

Shri Abid Ali: We have instructed our Industrial relations machinery to try to end the lock-out if possible.

Shri Supakar: May I know if this colliery is likely to function again in the very near future?

Shri Abid Ali: Let us hope so.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the manager of the colliery took recourse to firing at the workers at the time of the disturbance?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir; in self-defence after he was heavily stoned and injured.

Shri S. N. Dwivedy: Was it the first occasion when it resulted in firing or was there any previous occasion when he had fired on the workers?

Shri Abid Ali: The information is concerned with this particular incident.

Shri Supakar: May I know whether any adequate labour welfare arrangement is prevalent in this area, particularly, in this colliery?

Shri Abid Ali: If the hon Member gives separate notice, I will get the information.

Coir Board

*15. **Shri Maniyangadan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the nature of help the Coir Board has given to promote the economic condition of the coir workers?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The Coir Board does not give any assistance to the Coir-Workers direct. The Board is taking steps to increase internal consumption and explore new Markets abroad for Coir products with a view to increasing production such as advertisements, publicity and propaganda, participation in exhibitions and fairs, establishment of Show-rooms etc. This helps the promotion and development of Coir Industry.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Board has done anything to improve the conditions of workers who spin coir yarn by hand, and who are now getting only at the rate of four annas per work-day in making a variety of coir yarn called the Aleppadan yarn?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as the working conditions of the workers are concerned, the Coir Board is not directly concerned as I mentioned earlier. In reply to the main question. Really speaking, what we do is the promotional part, and that automatically

fits their average earning. I am not sure whether the information of the hon. Member that they earn only four annas is correct. I am told that they earn more than eight annas.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I was referring to a particular variety called the Aleppadan yarn, in spinning which a woman gets only four annas or even less, for eight hours a day. Has the Coir Board taken any steps to promote the export of this particular variety of yarn in order to relieve the distress of thousands of women?

Shri Manubhai Shah: So far as we are aware, they have not taken any special action in regard to any particular variety. But if the hon. Member so desires, and that particular variety is more suitable, we shall certainly make enquiries.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what assistance has given by the Board to set up new production centres?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We give to industrial co-operative societies about 75 per cent. loan for the share capital, and as much as eight times the share capital for loan-assistance for working capital.

Shri Punnoose: Is it not a fact that the Coir Board has recommended that in order to find a market for the mats and mattings, a delegation may be sent to foreign countries, and if so, may I know why Government have not accepted this very important recommendation?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have quite a number of Trade Commissioners there: and at the present moment when we have foreign exchange difficulties, we do not want to send many delegations. But I can assure the hon. Member that the export promotion is being very carefully looked after, and it is increasing every year.

Betterment Levy

*16. **Shri S. N. Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the states which have so far introduced betterment levy in their areas?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): Bombay, Mysore, Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Madras, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh have enacted laws for betterment levy in their areas.

Shri S. N. Dwivedy: May I know whether the levy has already been imposed or only the legislations have been passed?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Excepting Mysore, where it has been collected over a number of years, no other State—till March, 1956, I think—seems to have made any collection.

Shri S. N. Dwivedy: Are Government aware that the peasants are reluctant to utilise the water on account of the heavy imposition of the betterment levy?

Shri S. N. Mishra: It may be so in certain areas, but I cannot speak generally about it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the names of States where resentment has been expressed by the peasants in regard to the existing rate of betterment levy? May I also know whether in view of this resentment, Government will appoint any committee to look into the projects and see whether the costs of these projects have not been very heavy?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The question of collection does not seem to have been taken up, and I think, therefore, this question of resistance from the peasants does not arise at the moment.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Are Government aware that in several project areas many of the projects which were constructed during the past two or three years have collapsed, especially the canals constructed for tube-well irrigation purposes? They are not in proper order and yet the betterment levy is being imposed.

Shri S. N. Mishra: It is also my personal experience that some of these drains or channels have collapsed. We are very seriously thinking about it. I think it should not prove to be beyond engineering ingenuity to construct the