

but specially we give attention to the light engineering industry, some of the chemical industries and some of the consumer goods industries which can be produced very profitably on a small-scale basis, and we are taking up different training-cum-production centres which are indigenous to that area.

#### Bye-laws under the Mines Act, 1952

\*1024. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bye-laws under the Mines Act, 1952 have since been framed by Singareni Collieries Co., Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and when the same are likely to be finalised?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Bye-laws for the use and maintenance of belt conveyors in No. 5 Incline, and precautions against coal dust to be observed in the Kothagudium mines, Singareni Colliery Co. If so, the reply is in the negative.

(b) The delay is due to a difference of opinion, between the Mines Inspectorate and the Colliery management. Steps are being taken to refer the matter to an independent authority as provided under section 61(3) of the Mines Act, 1952.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: According to the section, as stated by the Deputy Minister, this has to be referred to a Mining Board. But there is no Mining Board at these mines. Therefore, may I know when a Mining Board will be constituted there?

Shri Abid Ali: If there is no Mining Board, Government can refer it to an independent officer, and that will be done.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know why a Mining Board has not been constituted at these mines?

Shri Abid Ali: Proposals have been invited from the Andhra Government, and on receipt of the same further action will be taken.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when this question will be referred to an independent officer, and who that officer will be?

Shri Abid Ali: It should not take long.

#### Closure of Tea Gardens in Assam

\*1025. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many tea gardens in Assam are faced with closure;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the number of workers who are likely to get unemployed consequent on closure of those Gardens; and

(c) whether Government will make any effort to save those Gardens from closing?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). The Government of Assam have reported that six gardens are faced with closure involving 1,596 workers.

(c) Details are being ascertained.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether over and above these six gardens there are about a dozen tea gardens which have served notices of retrenchment on their workers and, if so, whether Government will take any action in that regard?

Shri Satish Chandra: Government have no information and have received no representations from the workers. The information that we have at present has been received from the Government of Assam.

**Shri Rameshwar Tanti:** May I know whether the Government is aware that the common type tea gardens in Assam and Bengal owned by British firms are being sold and they are shifting the capital to East African plantations and, if so, what steps we are taking to stop this flight of capital from the country?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It is true that some of the foreign companies are selling their tea gardens in Assam and probably investing the money—we have no precise information—in East African where there are no duties at present and probably, plantations give more profits.

**Shrimati Masida Ahmed:** In view of the fact that tea is the largest single earner of foreign exchange, may I know whether Government have taken any substantial step for promoting the stability of the tea industry?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I may say here that the tea industry is well stabilised. It will be seen that out of a production of about 36 crore lbs. of tea in the State of Assam, the total production of the estates which are facing closure is not more than 2 lakh lbs.

**Shri Tyagi:** Have Government taken any concrete steps to supervise the efficient working of tea gardens in India?

**Mr. Speaker:** We are going away from one thing to another. This relates to the closure of six tea gardens. If the hon. Member thinks that it is not six but more, he may put a question.

**Shri Tyagi:** My question is whether Government have taken any concrete steps to control the efficient working of tea gardens because, after all, as the lady Member has said, it is one of the biggest foreign exchange earners.

**Mr. Speaker:** That may be all right. The hon. Member may reserve all these points for the general de-

bate or the particular debate on this matter.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** Are there tea gardens in Tripura which are faced with closure; if so which are those?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** We have no information.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that six tea gardens are threatened with closure and many more might be closed because of the acute competition from East African tea estates, may I know if Government proposes to find alternative employment for the workers that are going to be dislodged, or to settle them on agricultural land?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai):** That will be a question for the State Government.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** About the six gardens that have closed, may I know if Government has gone into the reasons as to why these gardens have closed and if Government has been convinced that there was no other possible way of keeping them open?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Firstly, these have not been closed. According to what we have been informed, these gardens are facing closure. Some of them have served notices on their workers. They are small tea gardens. And it is mainly due to lack of finance, mismanagement in the past, and probably not planting fresh tea bushes in place of old and so on.

**Shri Tyagi:** What was the Government doing all the time?

**Shri Morarji Desai:** I do not understand. Government cannot take over the estates and manage them.

**Shri Tyagi:** Why can't the tea gardens be taken over?

**Mr. Speaker:** Why can't all agriculture be taken over?

**Shri Tyagi:** It is not an ordinary matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** These are all suggestions. Question Hour is only for eliciting information, not for making suggestions as to what the Government ought to do.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** The hon. Minister has already referred to the fact that some of these gardens may be closing down because of neglect of the bushes. May I know whether Government has taken a decision on the recommendation of the Plantation Enquiry Committee regarding Replanting Fund and, if so, what the decision is?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The Plantation Enquiry Committee's recommendations are under consideration. Government will have to take certain powers if they want to exercise more effective control over these gardens. The matter is under consideration.

Some Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members will come to the subject of Tea under Commerce or Agriculture.

**Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** I asked a question about the Replanting Fund. The Minister has not answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** So far as that is concerned, it is under consideration.

Hon. Members will have ample opportunity during the discussion on the Demands. We have got 94 hours. I will give a few more hours during the actual discussion.

**Shri Tangamani:** Sir, this was a specific case. We would like to have an assurance, a guarantee that the plantations may not be closed.

**Mr. Speaker:** This is not the period during which assurances can be given.

### Employment Bureau in Delhi University

\*1029. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision to start an employment bureau at Delhi University has been taken;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision; and

(c) by what time a bureau will be established?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) to (c). The question is under consideration.

**Shri Ram Krishan:** May I know by what time a final decision will be taken in this matter?

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** Sir, I could not follow the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members are not attending to what is going on. They simply get up and ask what action has been taken.

**Shri Ranga:** May I know whether in the scheme that they have before them for consideration this employment bureau is to serve only the graduates of the Delhi University, or it is intended to serve all those graduates and other educated unemployed people in the whole Delhi City?

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** It is proposed to have one such bureau attached to each University.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether such employment bureaux will be established at all university centres?

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** We propose to establish such employment bureaux in all the universities.