

Shri Basappa: May I know whether in spite of the price of arecanut being more, the growers are not getting good prices because of lack of marketing facilities and because the middlemen take much of the profit, and if so, whether Government will consider this aspect and see that more facilities are given to the growers?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The facilities are being availed of through this co-operative marketing federation of all commodities in India, arecanut is one in which the growers can have no complaint. The prices are very high.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Is it not a fact that the President of the Arecanut Committee at its last meeting at Kozhikode said in his presidential address that there was a proposal to start such federations in other States also?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, the States are certainly to start the federations, but I have no knowledge of any definite steps having been taken so far.

Shri Shivnananjappa: May I know the financial assistance that is actually given?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They had made a budget of Rs. 90,000, asking for half of Rs. 15,000 for each depot. It has been suggested to them that Rs. 10,000 per depot would be enough and Rs. 6,000 for others. The matter is still under consideration.

Port and Dock Workers' Strike

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Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U. L. Patil:
Shri Sanganna:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Assar:
Shri Damar:
Shri Radha Raman:
*156. **Shri Ghosal:**
Shri Nath Pai:
Shri Balmiki:
Shri Jaganatha Rao:
Shri Easwara Iyer:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Supakar:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

(a) the number of port and dock workers who participated in the port and dock workers' strike in June, 1958;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by the country on account of the strike;

(c) the main demands of the workers;

(d) whether Government gave any assurances to the delegation of the dock workers to call off the strike; and

(e) if so, the details of the promises?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 134.]

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether one of the demands of the federation is that the recommendation of Mr. P. C. Chaudhuri regarding gratuity and provident fund be accepted, and if so, whether this has been accepted when the deputation met the Minister concerned after the strike was over?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The demand of the federation is as the hon. Member has just now expressed; but it has got to be read with the other portions, subject to the rider attached by the reporting officer Shri P. C. Chaudhuri himself that in view of the appointment of the second Pay Commission, some of his own recommendations may have to be revised and adjusted against the final conclusions of the new Pay Commission.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether during the strike that took place from 16th June, 1958, as a result of police firing, six people were killed in Madras and seven people were injured, and if so, whether Government have paid any compensation to the families of the deceased and those persons who were permanently disabled?

Shri Raj Bahadur: A committee of inquiry into the unfortunate incident of firing has been appointed by the State Government concerned. The result of that inquiry is not yet out, and I think the question of compensation, if any, will have to be considered by the State Government on the result of the inquiry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Bhakt Darshan.

Shri Tangamani: Apart from the inquiry, my question was whether Government have....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I shall come to the hon. Member again. Now, Shri Bhakt Darshan:

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इस हडताल के दौरान में और इसकी समाप्ति के बाद भारत सरकार ने जो कदम उठाये हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मजदूर लोग इसमें कितना सहयोग दे रहे हैं और क्या भविष्य में किसी हडताल की आशंका तो नहीं है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं इतना निवेदन कर सकता हूँ कि जहाँ तक कलकत्ते का

प्रश्न है अब तक हम वहाँ पॉस रेट सिस्टम लागू नहीं कर पाये थे और इसके पहले पीव रेट स्कीम के सिलसिले में जो कमेटी जस्टिस जी० जी० भाई की अध्यक्षता में नियुक्त हुई थी, उसमें उनको सहयोग नहीं मिल रहा था। लेकिन अब उन्होंने उससे सहयोग किया है और कलकत्ते की पॉस रेट कमेटी के बारे में जो बातें हैं उनके बारे में जी० जी० भाई साहब ने हाल में ही रिपोर्ट देने का वादा किया है।

Shri Nath Pai: Is not a fact that the strike was withdrawn on the indication that the Government would be meeting most of the demands, and on the failure of Government to carry out those promises, there is a deadlock and there is a further threat of the men going on strike a second time?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The terms on which the assurances on behalf of Government were given are quite clear. We have at all times maintained that we are determined to see that justice is done to the demands of the workers, and they should be considered with all the sympathy that they deserve. I think in the discussions and negotiations that we had subsequent to the calling off of the strike, we have applied minds as sympathetically as we could have, and we have gone as far as we could.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether discussions were held with the federation's representatives after the submission of the Chaudhuri Commission's report, and if so, the specific points on which agreement could be arrived at and also the specific points on which agreement could not be arrived at?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Discussions were obviously held not only after the submission of the report but also after the withdrawal of the strike. So far as the points are concerned, they have been given in detail in the

press communique as also in the gazette notifications. I do not think I can read them out here.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question was very specific. What were the points which could be agreed upon by the federation's representatives, and what are the points which are still agitating the minds of the employees?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The impression left on my mind is that whatever is included in the Government communique largely bears an imprint of mutual agreement; may be, on certain points, the emphasis laid by one party may be more than that by the other.

Shri Supakar: May I know whether any settlement has been reached between the representatives of the Port and Dock Workers' Federation and the representatives of Government, and if so, the points that have been agreed upon between the parties?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I can only repeat my answer to the previous question.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Is it a fact that these negotiations with the federation could not achieve agreement, and as a result there is the possibility of a threatened strike again?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There were certain points such as retirement benefits, for example, on which, of course, the Federation's representatives were rather adamant, and they said that we should here and now accept the recommendations of Mr. Chaudhuri. We did explain to them our difficulties; and despite those difficulties, we have evolved a formula in respect of certain classes and categories of employees, which gives them an advantage which is over and above the existing one.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that many port installations have been damaged due to inexperienced handling by inexperienced military personnel who were called in to break the strike?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No such instance has been brought to our notice, and I would be grateful if the hon. Member who seems to know more would point it out to me.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Is it a fact that assurances were given that all local demands which were not settled would be submitted to arbitration, and all other demands which were not connected with Mr. Chaudhuri's report would be examined expeditiously by Government, and if so, have those assurances been kept up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to the terms of settlement incorporated in the Government communique, it has been agreed upon that these local and sectional demands would be discussed at the port level with the port administrative officer and that a report will be furnished to the Central Government in case of failure to reach any agreement between the two parties, and on that, Government will apply their mind and will take such action as will be merited.

Shri Anthony Pillai: My question was specific.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has to wait for sometime.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: May I know whether any demurrage has been paid for detention of foreign vessels, and if so, what is the amount?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Of course, due to the strike going on for about 10 days, detentions were there, but the congestion has been cleared, and I do not think any demurrage has been paid. In case it has been paid, I can only furnish the information in course of time.

Shri Nath Pai: The Chaudhuri Committee Report has been the basis both of the dispute and principles of possible compromise. Is the Minister agreeable to place a copy of the Report on the Table of the House?

Shri Haj Bahadur: I think with the Resolution that has been passed the Report has already been made public. I will also place a copy on the Table, if it has not already been done.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not replied to my question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such question would not be answered during Question Hour. It is a separate thing which can be discussed at some other time. There are still about 20 Members wanting to ask questions. Hon. Members should help us to finish as many questions as possible.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The Minister should have made a statement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That can be asked differently on a different occasion.

Colony for the Residents of Jamuna Bazar

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*158. { **Shri Radha Raman:**
 Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1074 on the 19th March, 1958 and state the progress made with regard to the building of a colony across the Jamuna Bridge in Delhi to house the residents of Jamuna Bazar?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha: [See Appendix I, annexure No. 135.]

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether Government have already undertaken the construction of these promised and assured 1,500 tenements, and if so, what is the progress so far made in that connection?

Shri Karmarkar: The statement says that the remaining acquisition proceedings in respect of land have to be taken. That might take about three or four months. Then the question of construction comes.

Shri Radha Raman: Have Government fixed any time schedule by which the 1500 tenements will be ready for Jamuna Bazar residents?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said before, so far as these 50 acres of land is concerned, three or four months will be required for the remaining stages of the proceedings. After that, necessary steps will be taken.

Shri B. K. Galkwad: Among the residents of Jamuna Bazar, to how many families are Government going to provide accommodation?

Shri Karmarkar: The 50-acre site is for part of the Jamuna Bazar residents. A large part of them are now in a colony that was specifically constructed for them at Jhilmila Tahirpur, a total of 1200 tenements, and about 400 tenements at Kilkheri. These tenements were specifically for the Jamuna Bazar people, but it was appreciated that some of them did not find these localities convenient. For them, this supplementary arrangement is being made.

Ch. Brahm Prakash: Is it not a fact that the proposed 50-acre site is under water and it remains so for four months? Will Government consider an alternative site for them?

Shri Karmarkar: This question was carefully gone into. It was a low-lying land. That was our earlier apprehension. But after consultation with the U.P. Government, it was found that there was no immediate apprehension of water flooding that land. Therefore, these steps are being taken. While developing the land, care is taken to see that the houses stand on land which will not be flooded except in emergencies.

Shri Jadhav: What is the total number of these residents and how many