

बैसा मैं ने यमी यर्ज किया है प्राबिडेंट फंड संस्था एक रिजर्व फंड बना रही है जिस से ऐसे वर्कर्स को पैसे दिये जा सकें ।

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know..

**Mr. Speaker:** I have allowed twelve questions. Shri Vittal Rao should have risen earlier.

#### Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers

\*1521. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been short-fall in the fulfilment of the target of housing scheme for the plantation workers;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The original allocation of Rs. 2 crores for the Plantation Labour Housing Scheme is likely to be reduced to Rs. 50 lacs as a result of reappraisal of the Second Five Year Plan. The State Governments implementing this Scheme were able to draw Rs. 3.60 lacs only up to 31st March 1959 and are expected to draw Rs. 12.50 lacs during the current financial year for disbursement of loans to the planters.

(c) The main reason for the short-fall has been the inability of the planters to give to the State Governments adequate security for the loans. Various suggestions are being examined in order to work out a satisfactory solution to the problem.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** To what extent have the housing requirements for plantation workers been fulfilled so far?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** Under the Indian Plantations Labour Act, the plantations are to construct every year houses for 8 per cent of the total resident labour force.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** May I know whether any assessment has been made so far of the requirement of houses for plantation workers?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I do not think that we have the exact figures.

**Shri Rameshwar Tanti:** May I know whether it is a fact that some tea plantation companies established in Cachar and Terai are in financial difficulties and had approached the Tea Board early last year for financial assistance to build workers' houses or for their improvement; if so, what steps the Government are taking to establish a Tea Financing Corporation?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** As it is, there is financial provision made under this present scheme, that is, the Plantations Labour Housing Scheme. But the small plantations find it difficult to offer the necessary security to the State Governments who are responsible to the Central Government for the return of the money. That is the principal difficulty with regard to small plantations.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that tea garden labour in Assam live in the most deplorable conditions, almost in tattered huts. Why have the Government considered it fit to reduce this sum? What steps have the Government taken to compel the tea planters to put their security deposits with the State Governments?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** The actual off-take of money was very little. During the last three years only Rs. 3 lakhs have been drawn. There is no point in keeping on paper a big amount which really is not being utilised. But all possible steps are being taken and various suggestions have been made to the State Governments so that the difficulty experienced by the plantations in offering security may be obviated.

**Shri Basappa:** What is the amount set apart for the housing of coffee plantation workers? Has any satisfactory solution been sent by the Coffee Board in this direction?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** There is no separate amount allocated for coffee plantations. Plantation means both coffee and tea plantations.

**Shri Basappa:** Will the hon. Minister say whether a satisfactory solution is aimed at and whether the Coffee Board has given any solution? The hon. Minister has said that they are finding out a satisfactory solution for the fulfilment of the target so far as the housing of workers is concerned. I want to know whether the Coffee Board has forwarded any solution in this direction.

**Mr. Speaker:** Have they submitted any scheme?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** Not that I know of, but as I said, it is the State Governments who are responsible for the loans which are advanced to them and the plantations find it difficult to offer the required security to the State Governments. Therefore we are dealing with the State Governments. We have submitted certain formulae before them by which this difficulty may be got rid of.

**सेठ ब्रजलाल शिंदे:** क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि प्लांटेशन के धलावा जो हाउसिंग स्कीम के टारगेट के सन् १९५८ के क्या वे सब के सब पूरे हो गये हैं ?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a different question. How is it related to plantations?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** No it does not arise out of it.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Government liberalise the terms of security?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** It is not for the Central Government to liberalise the terms.

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**Mr. Speaker:** It is for the State Governments. Again and again the same question is being asked.

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** But I understand that there is going to be a conference soon in Assam on tea finance and this matter will also be discussed there.

**Shri Manam:** May I know as to what does the hon. Minister mean by inadequate security? Could he very kindly tell the House as to what does he mean by inadequate security? What definite measures do Government propose to take to obviate that difficulty? Also, is it a fact that in tea garden areas not a single tea garden has been able to avail of this facility of loans?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** The principal difficulty is, the small plantations have all their assets mortgaged to the banks for the working of their plantations. Therefore, they are not in a position to offer the security demanded to the State Government.

#### Manganese Ore

\*1824 **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) since when the policy of allowing non-quota holders to export manganese ore on firm orders, has been given effect to; and

(b) whether this policy has in any way improved the export position of manganese ore?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) 27th January, 1959.

(b) It is too early to expect any improvement.

**Shri Panigrahi:** May I know the number of non-quota holders who have applied for export of manganese ore and the amount of orders which they have received?