

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** I asked the names of the Members of the Committee.

**Shri Abid Ali:** The members were: Shri S. P. Jain, Actuary, Employees State Insurance Corporation, Shri Krishnamurthy, M.A., I.F.A., Department of Insurance, Simla, and Shri Bhatia. These are the three members of the Committee.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know when the examination of this report is likely to conclude? May I also know when this report was submitted to the Government?

**Shri Abid Ali:** We received the report in February last.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** When is the examination by the Ministry likely to conclude?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Not possible to say at present.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know the grounds which prevent the quick examination of this report?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It is being examined speedily?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not know how Shri T. B. Vittal Rao is benefited or the Minister. Sometimes the report may be small. It takes some time for them. Those who appointed a Committee will certainly look into the report also. It does not enhance or lead us one way or the other. Next question.

#### Export of Tea

\*1896. **Shri Bangshi Thakur:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give subsidy to the Tea Gardens of Tripura to enable them to export more tea; and

(b) if so, what will be the additional quantity of tea that is going to be exported under the present arrangement?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) Proposals for the grant of subsidies in respect of transport charges and supply of fertilizers to tea gardens in Cachar and Tripura, with a view to improving their economic condition, are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** May I know what is the total amount that is to be given as subsidy?

**Shri Kanungo:** The whole matter is under consideration.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** May I know whether the giving of subsidy will improve the position of the tea gardens and improve their financial stability?

**Mr. Speaker:** He suggested that subsidy should be given. Now, he asks whether it will improve. The hon. Member must have something in his mind before he puts the question. Subsidy will certainly improve.

**Shri Achar:** May I know whether subsidy is given only to Tripura or to other tea estates in the Southern States also?

**Shri Kanungo:** No, Sir. The proposal under consideration is the difficulty of this particular area, Cachar and Tripura. As far as Tripura is concerned, the main difficulty is that tea cannot be exported from there by the normal means, like the river or rail. Therefore, a proposal is under consideration. It does not apply to any other part of India.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** My point is, improvement is a general term. I want to know whether the giving of this subsidy will enable the Tripura gardens to increase the acreage of production.

**Shri Kanungo:** Even that is doubtful.

**Shri B. K. Galkwad:** What is the basis of giving the subsidy per acre?

**Shri Kanungo:** Just the idea is being considered. There is no proposal yet.

**Employers' Provident Fund Scheme**

\*1997. **Shri K. N. Pandey:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of contribution against the Provident Fund of the exempted factories under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952 is deposited with the State Bank of India or whether the same is kept by Employers with them; and

(b) if the amount remains with the employers, what measures of security are taken so that the money so realised remains safe and is not utilised otherwise?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) The employers are required to invest the provident fund accumulations promptly in Central Government Securities every month. But where the amount of provident fund contributions is small, the employers deposit the money in Post Office Savings Bank Account or in a Scheduled Bank pending investment in Government Securities.

(b) If the amount is retained contrary to the provisions as mentioned above, the exemption granted to the factory could be withdrawn and if need be legal action taken.

**Shri K. N. Pandey:** May I know what sum is considered to be small?

**Shri Abid Ali:** In some of these factories, the amount collected goes below even Rs. 100. It is not possible for me to categorise it at present and say what is considered as small or large.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** May I know whether there is any period laid down, to check whether the deposits are being made regularly or not?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Yes.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** What is the period at which Government check it?

Is it once in three months or once in six months or once in a year?

**Shri Abid Ali:** According to rules, every such undertaking should be inspected twice a year.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether the exemption has been removed in the case of any of these factories because they did not conform to this, and if so, the number of those factories, the number of the workers therein, and the amount involved?

**Shri Abid Ali:** For this, and for various other reasons, about 155 to 160 exemptions were withdrawn. As for the amount, I shall not be able to mention it just now.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know the difference in interest when the amount is put in the post office savings bank?

**Shri Abid Ali:** That is for a very short period only. Generally, this fund itself sanctions interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. so far as the non-exempted factories are concerned.

**National Development Council**

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**Shri Tangamani:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
**Shri Bhakt Darshan:**  
 \*1998. **Shri P. G. Deb:**  
**Shri P. C. Boroach:**  
**Shri Liladhar Koteki:**  
**Shri N. R. Mumukshy:**

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Development Council held its meeting on the 3rd and 4th April, 1959;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at;

(c) whether decision taken at the National Development Council at its meeting during November, 1958 regarding State Trading in foodgrains was considered; and

(d) if so, the nature of the steps proposed to be taken?