

that as far as this Ministry is concerned, we will look upon them with the same amount of consideration

Shri Jaganatha Rao: I wanted to know when it will be ready, I was not drawing any distinction

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: My difficulty has been to get lands from the State Governments. We got some lands. Unfortunately, they turned out for me, and fortunately for the State Governments, very valuable sal forests. So we had to give up those lands. Now we are trying to get lands where the forest is not so valuable and the land can be reclaimed. Both the State Governments of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are giving me every possible co-operation and help.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that addressing the first meeting of the Dandakaranya Development Authority the Minister stated that the development work there would be put on an emergency basis, if so, what steps Government have taken so far to fulfil this objective of emergency work?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I can only work with my tools, and unfortunately for me, Sir, there is a tremendous amount of disinclination on the part of experienced and trained officers. Either the State Governments are not prepared to release them, or if a man is working in Delhi we can hardly expect him to leave this beautiful capital and go to Dandakaranya. That has been my misfortune mostly.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Since the hon. Minister gave us a picture of the rehabilitation problem in Dandakaranya, may we know whether there has been any change *vis-a-vis* the question of taking more and more of the tribal people who have been displaced not only there locally but who have been displaced elsewhere by these various projects like D.V.C., Smdri and the like?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: None, Sir. And, I can assure the hon. Mem-

ber that as long as I occupy this chair, it will be my endeavour and honest duty not only to safeguard the interests of the tribals but to advance them.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Ministry has placed orders with the Defence Ministry about the purchase of crawlers, if so, for what value and when it will be delivered?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I am grateful to the Defence Minister for coming to my rescue. I am also grateful to the Prime Minister because he also came to my help. I have placed an order with the Defence Ministry. They are giving it a high priority, and I believe the value of the order is worth about Rs. 1 crore—I am talking from memory.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has put the responsibility on tools for the slackening of the work there, may I know whether the hon. Minister accepts the proverb "a bad workman quarrels with his tools"?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, let me answer that question. I accept full responsibility for any act of omission or commission with regard to Dandakaranya, but I was only trying to explain my difficulties in recruiting good personnel for a job which requires very experienced handling.

Employees' State Insurance

*2058 **Shri K. N. Pandey:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the employers of certain factories having realised the contribution from the employees under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 do not deposit the same with the Employees' State Insurance Corporation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to failure of such employers to deposit the money with the Corporation, the employees are deprived of the benefits under the above Act;

(c) the total amount due under the said Act which is still lying with the employers; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) No

(c) Rs 16,08,132 on the 31st December, 1958.

(d) Legal action has been taken on or before 31st December 1958 for the recovery of an amount of Rs 12,75,614

Shri K. N. Pandey: After the workers give their contribution may I know whether the Ministry will see that they get the benefit of the scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: Formerly such difficulties were brought to our notice, but now orders have been passed that workers should not suffer because of non-submission of returns or cards by the employers and that those from whom contribution has been recovered should get the benefit.

Shri Bose: The hon. Deputy Minister stated the other day that there were some employers who were defaulters in the matter of provident fund. May I know whether those very employers are also defaulters in this case; if so, what action has been taken against them?

Shri Abid Ali: Sir, notice will be necessary for me to compare the lists.

श्री राम सिंह भाई बर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिन श्रमिकों का पैसा काटा गया है और उसको जमा नहीं कराया गया है और जमा न कराने की वजह से उनको जो लाभ मिलना चाहिये या वह नहीं मिला है और इससे श्रमिकों को हानि पहुँची है और वह पैसा अगर वे आप जिन्दा है, तो

उनको मिलें, अगर जिन्दा नहीं है तो उनके कुटुम्ब वालों को मिले, उसे दिलाने की सरकार ने कोशिश की है या उस पर सरकार विचार कर रही है ?

श्री आबिद अली जिन का पैसा जमा कर लिया गया है और एम्प्लायर्स की गलती की वजह से उसका उन्हें फायदा नहीं मिला है या नहीं मिलता है और कुछ नुकसान हुआ है, ऐसे केसिस की अगर कोई फेडरिस्त हमारे पास भेजी जाए तो जरूर मुनासिब कार्रवाई की जाएगी ।

श्री राम सिंह भाई बर्मा क्या सरकार ने यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि एम्प्लायर मजदूरों का हिस्सा काट लेने है और उमको जमा नहीं कराते है और मजदूर लोग भ्रमानता के कारण सरकार का एत्राच नहीं कर सकते है, ऐसे मामलो की जाच करके, और यह पता लगा कर कि किन-किन एम्पलायर्स ने ऐसा किया है तथा किन-किन एम्पलायर्स की गलती की वजह से मजदूरों को फायदा नहो पहुचा है, मजदूरों को उनसे ड्यूम दिलाने की कृपा की जाएगी ?

श्री आबिद अली पहले इस किस्म की शिकायत आई थी और उसके बाद कायदे में फर्क कर दिया गया है । जहा-जहा कामगरो के पास से पैसा वसूल किया गया है और एम्पलायर फेडरिस्त हमारे पास नही भेजते है, इस वजह से मजदूरों को किसो किस्म का नुकमान न हो इसके लिए कायदे में मुनासिब तरमीम कर दी गई है ।

जहा तक दूसरी बाब की तालुक है हमारे पास कोई चौदह लाख इनश्योर्ड परसंस है । इस किस्म को जाच करना सरकार के लिए नामुम्किन है । लेकिन ट्रेडयूनियम और दूसरे अमहाब मे मे अर्ज करूंगा कि अगर ऐसी चीजें है, तो वे उनका हमारे पास भेजे । हम जरूर मुनासिब कार्रवाई करेगे ।

Shri Tangamani: May I know who are the defaulters, from where they

are drawn, which is the main defaulting industry and when the Government propose to impose the increased rate as per the statute?

Shri Abid Ali: I have given the figures. There are several establishments which have not paid the amount, and action has been taken with regard to them. What was the latter part of the question?

Shri Tangamani: I want to know when the statutory rate is going to be imposed.

Shri Abid Ali: The Committee has already decided, I informed the House sometime back, that after covering all the families if expenses can be met from the current contributions, the levy should not be increased. It will be increased when necessary.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know what is the delay in the establishment of hospitals by the Corporation when it has so much money at its disposal?

Shri Abid Ali: At some places construction has already started; at other places lands have been acquired and plans are being made. There is no particular delay. Rs. 16 crores have now been earmarked for the construction of hospitals for workers.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether there was a scheme to construct a hospital in Kanpur; if so, whether land has been acquired and when the construction work is likely to start?

Shri Abid Ali: As soon as the plans are made ready.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether there is any proposal to amend this Act so that effective and strong action may be taken against the defaulters?

Shri Abid Ali: The present Act empowers us to take necessary action, and action has been taken in some cases and in respect of others action is being taken.

श्री राम सिंह भाई बर्मा: क्या सरकार इस पर विचार करेगी कि उन कारखानों जिन्होंने मजदूरों को पैसे काटे हैं, वे बन्द हो गये हैं, या लिक्विडेशन में चले गये हैं और कानून के अनुसार जिन को पहले अधिकार होता है पैसा वसूल करने का उन्होंने वसूल कर लिया है और मजदूरों की रकम उनको नहीं मिल पाई है कानून में ऐसी तबदीली करने का विचार करेगी या कर रही है कि मजदूरों का मेहनताना सब से पहिले मिलना चाहिये और बाकियों को बाद में ?

श्री आबिद अली शायद माननीय सदस्य का यह सवाल है कि सवाल प्राविडेंट फ्रॉम से सम्बन्धित है। यह सवाल इन्क्वैरेंस कारपोरेशन से सम्बन्धित है और उसके बारे में तो यह सवाल नहीं उठता है।

श्री राम सिंह भाई बर्मा श्रीमान् में निवेदन करना चाहना हू कि जहा इस तरह की शिकायतें हो कि श्रमिकों का पैसा वाटा गया है, श्रमिकों को जो फायदा मिलना चाहिये था वह नहीं मिला और वे कारखाने बन्द कर दिये गये हैं या लिक्विडेशन में चले गये हैं और कानून के अनुसार बैंकों वगैरह की जो रकम होती है, वह पहले वसूल की जाती है, वह पहले वसूल न होकर के मजदूरों को उनका पैसा पहले मिले क्योंकि उनकी आर्थिक दशा खराब होती है और जब बैंकों वगैरह को पहले मिल जाता है, तो मजदूरों को देने के लिए कुछ बचता नहीं है, इस वास्ते उनसे पहलें पैसा दिलवाने के लिए कानून में क्या तबदीली की जाएगी ?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is making a speech.

Shri K. N. Pandey: The hon. Minister has just said that Rs. 16 lakhs are still lying with the employers and they have not deposited that amount with the Corporation. He said that it is only the union which should complain as to who are the persons who have not got the benefit.

May I know whether it is the responsibility of the unions only to submit such complaints or whether the Minister also will depute some officers who will go into the matter, because some of the factories have not deposited the money at all, covering all the employees there?

Shri Abid Ali: I have already assured the House that it is immaterial whether they have deposited the money or not. The workers from whom contributions are recovered are entitled to the benefit, and in case anybody has not received, either the worker himself or the union can write to us. Action will be taken and they will certainly be receiving the benefit to which they are entitled.

Import of Photographic Materials

*2059. **Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have entered into an agreement with the Government of East Germany for the import of photographic materials through the factories of Messrs Vebphoto, Deko and Agfa,

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and the value of these goods to be imported per annum,

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation in pursuance of the above agreement have appointed (i) Messrs Central Camera Co, (ii) Messrs Agfa India Ltd, and (iii) Messrs Choksi Bios to import various items of these goods from East Germany, and

(d) if so, the value of goods to be imported by each firm and the criteria employed in their selection?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir. Photography is one of the items of imports from German Democratic Republic under the agreement

(b) Copies of the agreement were laid on the Table of the House on the 11th December, 1958

(c) and (d) The State Trading Corporation organises the imports of the photographic materials through its business associates, who are appointed on the basis of their previous experience in handling the materials imported from the country in question. These associates act as stockists only and sell at the prices prescribed by the State Trading Corporation and to the allottees nominated in consultation with the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: May I know if the established photographic trade or the Chambers of Commerce were consulted before this agreement was concluded?

Shri Kanungo: No, Sir. It is not necessary.

Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: May I know if the prices at which the materials had been purchased were the lowest obtaining in the world, quality for quality and size for size?

Shri Kanungo: These are special imports under special terms from a special country, that is, the German Democratic Republic. Therefore, taking into consideration all factors, we think that the prices are reasonable.

Shri M. Khuda Bukhsh: May I know whether the Government have received any complaint about the quality of these materials?

Shri Kanungo: We have not received any complaint about the quality of the materials of German origin.

Shri Dasappa: May I know what percentage of the country's requirements is routed through these three firms?

Shri Kanungo: There are not three firms. I was mentioning about the imports from East Germany. As far as the quantity is concerned, I would say that roughly, up to September,