

the private sector in the last 5 years and especially in the year 1956?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: That is a question of evaluation. The hon. Member may put a separate question.

Mazdoor Wages in Andamans

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*1451. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned an increase in the basic monthly wages of mazdoors in Andamans from Rupees 17 to Rupees 30 from the 23rd February, 1957; and

(b) if so, whether order to this effect has been communicated to the Andaman Island Authorities?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The order was perhaps passed on 23rd February, 1957. May I know when this was communicated to the Chief Commissioner of Andamans?

Shrimati Alva: Immediately after the 23rd February.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether this order has been given effect to and all the mazdoors are getting the increased wages?

Shrimati Alva: Yes, Sir; this has been given effect to.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if the labour legislations which apply to India, for instance, the Minimum Wages Act etc., are implemented there, and what is the machinery through which they are implemented?

Shrimati Alva: That legislation does not apply there.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Since Andamans and Nicobars are part of India, and if in the legislation itself nothing has been stated that these two

areas are excluded, may I know why it does not apply to those areas?

Shrimati Alva: In view of the peculiar conditions we have a particular notification which applies in that area.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Why is it, Sir, that there is a separate notification?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter for law. I am not able to decide now.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know whether any increased payment has since been made in the Forest Department up to July, 1957?

Shrimati Alva: Increased payments are given according to the classifications of labour.

Vegetable Curds

*1452. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has recently purchased a small plant from Messrs Cashewnut Plantation Ltd., Trichur, for the production of vegetable curds;

(b) if so, the exact purpose for which the machine has been purchased; and

(c) whether any experiment has been carried out with the machine for the production of vegetable curds?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For demonstration purposes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what was the price of the plant when it was imported into India?

Shri M. M. Das: The price of the plant is Rs. 6,000, and the plant was manufactured in the Indian Cashewnut Plantation Company. Some parts were imported to India from foreign countries and some parts were designed and fabricated by our research laboratory on food in Mysore.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how the quality of the curd prepared by this plant compares with the natural curd from milk?

Shri M. M. Das: It is very difficult to answer that question, but because this curd was first prepared in our research laboratory on food we think that the nutritive elements of this curd are fair.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how much can be produced daily and how the production will be utilised.

Shri M. M. Das: The information with regard to the first part of the question, what is the maximum production, is not at my disposal at present. The plant is now being erected in the premises of the Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Perianaicken Palayam, and the production will be taken by the students of that Vidyalaya.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: What is the selling price of this curd?

Shri M. M. Das: This much I can say, that the cost of this vegetable curd is less than the cost of curd prepared from natural milk, but it is more than the cost of curd prepared from imported skimmed milk powder.

Shri Goray: Can this curd be taken with the artificial rice that we are producing?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Minister will have to prepare dahi-bath.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: If it is so sweet let us taste and then ask questions. After all it only costs Rs. 6,000; any hon. Member can afford to purchase.

Survey for Mica and Manganese

*1453. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken recently for mica and manganese deposits in the country; and

(b) if so, the agency under which it is being done and the results thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India has been carrying on investigation into the occurrences of Manganese and Mica in various parts of the country.

As a result of the detailed survey of the manganese belt in Madhya Pradesh and Bombay, the reserves in the region of Nagpur-Bhandara and Balaghat have been estimated at 100 million tons.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the quality of the material obtained?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I could not follow the question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the quality of the mica that has been recovered from that particular area.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The quality of the mica is just the average. There is no special quality of mica discovered in this area, but there are various types which have been surveyed and discovered blocks, condensed form and all that. There is nothing special which I can say with regard to this question.

Shri P. K. Patel: May I know whether any survey has been done in Gujerat; if so, at what places?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: As I said the Geological Survey of India has an annual programme which is spread throughout the country. In Gujerat also there is a programme of survey. If the hon. Member tables a separate question I will answer that.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Am I to allow a question on survey with respect to each State? If there is any general question I will allow that to be put.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The hon. Minister just said that the estimated deposit of manganese in the area surveyed is about 100 million tons. May