

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) The requirements of the Working Journalists will be given due consideration at the time of the drafting of the new Industrial Relations Bill.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it a fact that the working journalists are denied resort to the Industrial Tribunals, by the various State Governments?

Shri V. V. Giri: Certain cases of these journalists came before the Tribunals, and there are different kinds of decisions.

Shri Venkataraman: In view of the conflicting decisions in respect of the working journalists, as to whether they are governed by the definition of workman or not, what action do the Government propose to take to settle the controversy?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government are considering the matter.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May we know when the Industrial Relations Bill is likely to come up before this House?

Shri V. V. Giri: As early as possible.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government have collected any statistics regarding the number of working journalists working at present?

Shri V. V. Giri: Notice. I have not got that with me, but we have to collect the information.

RICE AND WHEAT RESEARCH WORKERS' CONFERENCE (RECOMMENDATIONS)

***503. Shri Chinaria:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how far the recommendations of the Rice and Wheat Research Workers' Conference endorsed by the joint meeting of the Research and Extension Boards held in July, 1951 have been implemented?

(b) How many scientists were or are being sent to the International Rice Conference of the F.A.O.?

(c) Have any drought resistant varieties of rice and wheat been or are being bred?

(d) If so, under what average annual rainfall can they grow successfully?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 14].

(b) During the first two sessions of the Conference one scientist was deputed; during the third session two scientists were deputed.

(c) Correctly speaking there is no drought resistant paddy, but there are strains of paddy which are early-maturing and can be grown in high-lying areas. Similarly wheats grown under dry conditions are early-maturing.

(d) Paddy (short-season or early-maturing) can be grown under rainfall of about 40 inches. Wheat can be grown in *barani* areas with a rainfall varying from about 18—25 inches.

Shri Chinaria: May I know whether the Government have tried to find out the minimum water requirements of drought-resistant plants, especially rice and wheat?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This matter is likely to be taken up for investigation, at the suggestion of the hon. Member.

DISTURBANCES AT VIJAYAWADA RAILWAY STATION

***504. Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the exact value of property looted on the 16th December, 1952 at Vijayawada Railway Station by the mob?

(b) What was the strength of Police Force stationed to guard the Railway Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The value of goods lost will be approximately Rs. 17 lakhs and the value of the goods recovered is estimated to be about Rs. 2 lakhs.

(b) The information is not available.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know how many persons responsible for this loot have been detected, and what amount of property has been recovered from them?

Shri Alagesan: I have already answered part of the question. About Rs. 2 lakhs worth of property has been recovered. As to how many people were arrested etc., we do not have the information.

Shri Veeraswamy: How many persons have lost their lives in the disturbances?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The Railways have nothing to do with them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister to whom the question is address-