

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-

ed is the Minister in charge of Railways.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has it been brought to the notice of Government that labourers have been forced to give away their rice and wheat in their houses, because the police made a search in their houses?

Shri Alagesan: Only the looted property was recovered. That is all our information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we are not entering into any argument as to whether it was looted or antecedent property. It is left for the investigators.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Have any railway employees been killed in this incident, and has any compensation been paid to their families?

Shri Alagesan: At Vijayawada, none.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any persons have complained that their property has been taken away by the railway authorities, even though they protested that they did not take part in this looting?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to follow the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether any complaints have been received by the railway authorities, that the personal property—and not the stolen property—of some persons have been recovered from them.

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. We have no information.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the property includes not only Government property but also private persons' property?

Shri Alagesan: These are goods booked,—parcels and luggage.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know, Sir, who is to bear the balance of 15 lakhs?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a legal question.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

*505. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total production of sugar in India in the season 1951-52 and what is the estimate of production this year?

(b) Is it a fact that crushing of canes started late this year and if so, what are the reasons?

(c) Is it a fact that smaller number of factories will work during the season of 1952-53 than in the last season?

(d) What is the percentage recovery of sugar from canes as expected this year, and how does it compare with last year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The total production of sugar in India in the season 1952-51 was 14.97 lakh tons. This year it is expected to be about 12 or 12.5 lakh tons.

(b) Yes. The main reason for late starting of the sugar factories this season is that the cane crop in areas of most of the factories was smaller. It was, therefore, not necessary for factories to start early to crush available cane. Further as recovery of sugar in the early part of the season is low, most of the factories delayed crushing in order to obtain higher average recovery.

(c) Yes.

(d) The average recovery of sugar on cane in India this year is expected to be about 9.9 per cent, as against 9.57 per cent, last year.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether the proportion of the decrease in the acreage under sugar cane cultivation has been in accordance with the decrease in production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): There has hardly been a reduction in acreage as the effect of reduction in cane price will be felt next year. The decrease in production is due to the disease in cane in some parts of the country.

Shri Gopala Rao: What are the reasons for the fall in production of sugar cane? While it was 14.97 lakh tons last year, this year it is estimated to be 12.5 lakh tons. Is it the progress of the Five Year Plan?

Shri Kidwai: No. It will still be more than what is aimed at in the Five Year Plan.

Shri V. P. Nayyar: The hon. Minister has given figures of production. May I know, Sir, what is the installed capacity of production for sugar mills in India?

Shri Kidwai: At least what it was last year, but I think a lakh tons more.