

श्री मुनश्चुनवाला : मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि इस बार ईख कम हुई, ईख कम हुई इसलिये शुगर का प्रोडक्शन कम हुआ ? तो ईख कम क्यों हुई, एरिया तो बहुत बेशी था ?

श्री किबवई : कुछ जगहों पर इस साल ईख में बीमारी लग गई और उस की वजह से कम हुई, और बाज्र जगह तूफान आए, जैसे द्रावणकोर में, उस से भी ईख को नुकसान पहुंचा ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : यू० पी० में फसल कैसी है ?

श्री किबवई : यू० पी० में वेस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स की फसल खराब गई, चूनांचे वेस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट में कम होगी । ईस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में बढ़ जायगी ।

Suri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the decrease in acreage this year is due to the fact that many growers have not yet been paid for the cane that was supplied last year?

Shri Kidwai: That is also not correct, because the effect of the last year's arrears on the sowing will be next year.

PROVIDENT FUND SCHEMES FOR WORKERS

***506. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what are the advantages of the localisation of operation of Provident Fund Schemes to workers?

(b) What are the conditions of localisation and to what industries has it been extended?

(c) What have been the results of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme working in the coal mines?

(d) What industries and what percentage of workers are now being benefited by the Provident Fund Scheme?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the decentralisation of administration of the 'Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. Decentralisation makes for speedier disposal of provident fund business

and promotes closer association of the employees with the administration of the Fund at all levels.

(b) The present policy is to allow liberal permission to factories to run their schemes subject to certain limitations and conditions. It is proposed to decentralise further the administration of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme after some experience is gained in its working in the six scheduled industries, namely, cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textiles. A copy of the conditions of exemption is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 15].

The conditions of further decentralisation are still to be worked out.

(c) The results of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme are:—

(i) it is having a stabilising effect on a labour force which was casual and mobile; and

(ii) it has brought some awareness among the workers of the advantages of thrift and provision for old age, and for dependents in the event of early death of a worker.

(d) About 90 per cent. of the employees working in cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textile industries are covered by the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952. In regard to coal mines, a worker who once earns a quarterly bonus, becomes a member of the Coal Mines Provident Fund. The total membership now is about six lakhs, including 'dead accounts', which shows that the percentage of members to the total number of workers must be very high, probably of the order of 80 per cent.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, what is the ground on which certain employees are excluded from the advantages of this scheme, and what is the number of such employees?

Shri V. V. Giri: Employees are not excluded. Certain industries have been excluded, or at any rate, are not included. Under section 4, they can also be included provided the Government is of the opinion that they could be included.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: In the statement that I have got, it is said: "Under the scheme, all employees, other than excluded employees, who have completed one year's....."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Employees are not excluded; industries are excluded.

Shri V. V. Giri: Employees who are getting more than Rs. 300.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What are the conditions under which the contribution of the employer is withdrawn in certain cases?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think those conditions are enumerated in the paper that I have placed on the Table of the House—deductions on account of dismissal for serious or wilful misconduct.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, Sir, whether there is any representative of the workers on the Board of Trustees?

Shri V. V. Giri: Of course.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, why the tanning and 'biri' industries have been excluded from this scheme?

Shri V. V. Giri: They will be included later.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, whether this Act is applied to all the cement factories in India, including those in the South?

Shri V. V. Giri: I suppose so.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, Sir, the proportion of 'dead accounts' in the figure given by the hon. Minister and how that amount is being utilised?

Shri V. V. Giri: It is not returned to the employer. It is kept there for the purpose of knowing whether the man who represents the 'dead account' would come back for work. They are 'dead accounts' because the man is not found—not that he is dead.

Shri Venkataraman: Sir, is it a fact that the employee does not get the full employer's contribution under this scheme unless he has put in 20 years of service and as a result of this the employees do not get the benefit of the contribution of the employers? Has representation been made by the Trade Unions that the period fixed for getting the employer's contribution is long and that it should be reduced to five years? Has any decision been taken in respect of these representations?

Shri V. V. Giri: Certainly we will give due consideration to the representations.

Shri S. C. Deb: May I know, Sir, whether the scheme will be applicable to the tea industry?

Shri V. V. Giri: At the present moment it will not.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, in view of the fact that the employees do not get any contribution, unless they have put in 20 years, whether the Government have a machinery to ascertain the dismissal of the employees by such employers before 20 years?

Shri V. V. Giri: According to the Act, if a man has put in 20 years then alone he will get the full benefit of the Act.

CONDIMENT AND SPICES CROPS

***507. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Committee set up to examine the position of condiment and spices crops has begun its work and, if so, when is it likely to finish it and submit its report?

(b) Has the Committee examined the position as regards the growing of some of these crops in any places in Northern India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. The Committee has already toured all important producing centres in South India and is expected to submit its report shortly.

(b) No. It is not necessary to do so as all the six crops referred to the Committee are grown on a commercial scale in South India particularly in Travancore-Cochin, Madras, Coorg and Mysore.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: May I know whether any experiments were made to see that any of those crops can be produced in other areas?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not aware of any such experiment.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know, Sir, whether turmeric is one of the crops within the purview of this Committee and, if so, whether this Committee has toured Andhra Desa where this is grown in a very large measure?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Turmeric is included, Sir; but the Committee does not appear to have toured the Andhra Desa. I can give the places and areas toured. The Committee visited Travancore-Cochin in April-May, 1952, Coorg and Mysore in December, 1952. In January, 1953, the Committee visited Madras and Malabar. I do not know if Madras means Andhra Desa also.