

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Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What are the conditions under which the contribution of the employer is withdrawn in certain cases?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

Shri Raghuramaiah: It does, Sir, including Madras city. May I know, Sir, considering the important nature of the crop and the number of people growing it and the enormous loss that has been incurred, whether the Government consider instructing the Committee to visit that place, and take evidence?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sure, Sir, that competent members of the Committee will not forget such an important area and consideration as have been pointed out by my hon. friend.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether growers of these commodities are associated with the working of this Committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are examined, Sir. I do not know whether they are associated. I have got the names of the members of the Committee and they are expected to make enquiries from growers. There is no grower as such excepting an ex-M.P., A. K. Menon, who represents the consumers and C. N. Alexander, who represents the Travancore-Cochin producers.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, what are the terms of reference of this Committee and whether the question of high prices of spices and condiments is included in the terms of reference?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the main object with which the Committee was appointed was to make on-the-spot enquiries and to collect evidence regarding the problems of production and marketing of black pepper, ginger, garlic, cardamom, turmeric and lemongrass.

EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR

*508. **Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount so far collected under the Sugar Excise Act, 1952; and

(b) the present price of sugar?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Rs. 2.4 lakhs as reported by Excise Collectors.

(b) The ex-factory price of the carry-over stocks of 1951-52 season is Rs. 27/- per maund in North India and Rs. 28/- per maund in South India. There is no price control on 1952-53 sugar but it is being quoted at Rs. 27/- to Rs. 29/8/- per maund ex-factory according to quality and location of the factory.

Shri K. K. Basu: Sir, could he give us the provincial distribution of such collection?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got these figures, Sir.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: What is the basis for the difference of prices between Northern India and Southern India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The basis of difference is the transport charges from North India to the South. South India does not produce sufficient sugar to suffice for that area. Therefore it has got the advantage of freight in the market.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that the produce of sugar-cane per acre is greater in Southern India than in Northern India?

Shri Kidwai: In Bombay State the yield per acre is much higher than in Northern India and the recovery is also much higher than in Northern India. But in free competition they have got the advantage of freight because the sugar produced there is not sufficient and they have to compete with Northern India sugar. Therefore, sugar in South India is costlier than in the North.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: What is the basis of fixing the price of sugar?

Shri Kidwai: Nobody fixes the price; it is free market now.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I have now got the break-up of the figures, if my hon. friend wants it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, not necessary. That question is over.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether sugar produced in South Indian factories is often taken to Northern India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we competing with South India? Nobody complains that South Indian sugar is worse than North Indian sugar. What is the object of these questions? I would only ask hon. Members first of all to think what is the object of the question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it not a fact, Sir, that sugar made in Northern India is imported into South India and is it not because of that that the cost of production in South India is higher than in North India?

Shri Kidwai: In South India the cost of production is not high. They are getting rich profits because the sugar produced there is supplied locally and