

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

*153. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the survey to bring about a uniform system of minimum wages to Agricultural labourers has been completed?

(b) If so, what time will it take for introducing a Bill in this direction?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the approximate time that will be required to finish the survey?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (c). No survey has been undertaken to obtain a uniform system of minimum wages to agricultural labourers. If, however, the reference is to the Agricultural Labour Enquiry conducted by the Labour Ministry, the Enquiry has been completed. The final report is being drafted.

(b) Reference to the Bill is not understood. It is not contemplated to introduce any such Bill. If the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is contemplated, minimum wages for employments in agriculture as specified in Part II of the Scheduled to the Act are required to be fixed by the States before the 31st December, 1953.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: Do Government propose to bring a uniform system of minimum wages?

Shri Abid Ali: It is not possible, Sir.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether this Committee has recommended cash payments or payments in kind?

Shri Abid Ali: A comprehensive statement was placed on the Table of the House in reply to question No. 76, and all the information will be available there.

Shri Raghavaiah: Will Government in this country see that forced labour among agricultural labourers is removed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

FAMINE RELIEF WORKS IN MADHYA PRADESH

*154. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have asked any financial assistance from the Government of India for famine relief works in the famine-stricken areas of that State?

(b) If so, what is the amount so far sanctioned?

(c) Will this amount be treated as a loan or grant to that State?

(d) What are the relief works that have already been started in the areas under famine in the said State?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

(d) The State Government have started 23 Road works, 27 tank and other irrigation works and 18 metal breaking centres. Irrigation works include digging of *Jharias* in beds of rivers and nullahs, bunding of nullahs and streams, and construction, repairs and deepening of wells.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, VIENNA

*131. **Shri Eswara Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Academy of Medicine, Vienna, has offered to admit in the Academy Indian Doctors, for doing post-graduate work?

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer and how many seats have been offered for Indian Doctors?

(c) What authority has been entrusted with the selection of Indians desiring to avail of this offer, and what is the machinery of selection?

(d) How many applications have been received up till now, who are the applicants and what are the qualifications of each?

(e) If selections are already over, how many have been selected and on what considerations?

(f) If selections are not yet over, what will be the methods of selection?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) The offer was for post-graduate training for about 20 Indian Doctors during the session commencing April 1953. It has been accepted and applications from intending candidates have been called for through a press note.

(c) (e) and (f). There will be no selection in India. Applications of all

the eligible candidates will be forwarded to the Academy for selection and acceptance.

(d) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 32.]

FERTILIZERS (DISTRIBUTION)

*132. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the proposal of exchanging one maund of rice for one maund of fertilizers with the cultivators has been found acceptable to various State Governments?

(b) What are the details of the proposal?

(c) How many State Governments have not approved of the proposal?

(d) What is the total quantity of fertilizer pooled together available for the deal in the year 1953?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) West Bengal has accepted the proposal, Uttar Pradesh has expressed doubts and replies from the other State Governments are awaited.

(b) The details are being worked out. The main feature of the deal is to supply fertilizers like the sulphate of ammonia to cultivators on credit and recover the cost at harvest, either in cash or in kind, depending upon the convenience of the farmer.

(c) As stated under (a) above, replies from the State Governments other than West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, are awaited.

(d) The quantity of fertilizers expected to be pooled is estimated to be about 4,70,000 tons. Out of this quantity about 80,000 tons may go for cash crops and the balance 3,90,000 tons may be available for food crops on credit basis.

AIR TRANSPORT COMPANIES

*149. **Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state in connection with the proposal to nationalise the airlines how many airline companies have been working at a profit?

(b) What is the amount of subsidy paid to the Companies which have been running at a loss?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) During the year 1951, the operations of only one internal airline, viz., Airways (India), resulted in a profit.

(b) The amount of subsidy paid to the Companies which were running at a loss during 1951 was Rs. 31,15,566/-.

ALL-INDIA TRADES CERTIFICATION BOARD

*155. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the progress made towards the establishment of an All-India Trades Certification Board in terms of the recommendations of the Committee set up for the purpose last year?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The Committee submitted its report on November 6th, 1952. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination of the Government in consultation with the different Ministries concerned. A final decision is likely to be taken shortly.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

*156. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) which of the states, if any, have given recognition to the Diplomas awarded by the various Vocational Training Centres and the reasons, if any, assigned by others in not recognising the said Diplomas; and

(b) the total number of Diplomas awarded so far by the Vocational Training Centres and the number of Diploma holders who have been provided with jobs?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa have recognised Diplomas issued by the Ministry of Labour in all trades while Bombay and Madras Governments have recognised our Diplomas in certain trades. No reasons have been assigned by other State Governments for not recognising the diplomas and the matter is under correspondence with them.

(b) 41,744 trainees have been awarded diplomas upto the end of December, 1952. Of these, 7,345 were placed in jobs by the Employment Exchanges upto 31st December, 1952 and 3,721 were on the Live Registers of Exchanges for employment assistance on that date.