

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The causes for the closure of tea gardens are the continued slump in tea prices and the inadequacy of financial resources of the gardens. The matter of securing the re-opening of tea gardens is now engaging the attention of the respective States Governments.

(f) This is a matter to be settled between labour, the tea garden owners and the appropriate State Governments.

**Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** May I know whether it is a fact that the bipartite agreement referred to in the Press Note included also a point that pending investigation, there would be no change in the working conditions and amenities?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It may be that the bipartite recommendation did include that point. Since there is no tripartite agreement, I cannot say how far a bipartite recommendation is binding on the parties.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I recall that the hon. Minister stated in this House during the last session or in this session that when these concessions were given, it should be stipulated that there should be no discharge of labour and may I know whether that condition has been fulfilled?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** This particular question does not relate to the concessions given by the Government. The concessions given by the Central Government are more or less confined to giving guarantees to banks and I presume that in regard to those gardens which have benefited by these concessions, the agreement still holds good.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** May we know why when labour and the owners happened to agree, the Government could not also agree at the same time?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The labour and the owners are prepared to call the tune; but the Government have to pay the piper.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** In view of the statement that there was no agreed resolution at the conference, may I know whether the Government representatives present there, tabled any resolution containing any proposal to relieve the tea industry in its present crisis?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The question was dealt with on more

than one occasion in this House. I have answered this question before and my hon. colleague the Labour Minister did refer to this matter. In a tripartite conference of this nature, Government does not table resolutions.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

#### FORCED LABOUR

\*338. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what are the findings of the Special Committee of the United Nations under the Chairmanship of Shri A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar regarding the existence of forced labour in the World?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** The ad hoc Committee on Forced Labour has not yet concluded its work. It is expected that the final report of the Committee will be considered at the fourth session which commences on April 17th.

**Shri M. R. Krishna:** May I know the countries in which Indian citizens are subjected to forced labour and what steps Government of India propose to take to relieve them from this trouble?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I submit this does not arise out of this question.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the forced labour that is existing in India will be taken into consideration by this Committee?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** The Committee had sent their questionnaire to us and we have sent our reply.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** What are the materials that this Government have supplied to the Committee to consider this question?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is it possible?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** It is a very long answer and it runs into 20 pages. I am not in a position to go into the details of the matter.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question.

#### INDIANS KILLED IN MALAYA

\*339. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many Indians have been killed in the terrorist activities in Malaya?

(b) What were these Indians doing in Malaya?