

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a lot of procedure gone through before money is actually paid, and unless we are sure that it will be utilised, it will not be paid. Moreover, it should be understood by hon. Members that this is not the only item for which loans are granted. There are other items as well. There is therefore no reason to believe that the States whose names I have not mentioned do not get anything.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member asked whether the money has been utilised or not. The hon. Minister, if he knows that it has been utilised, may say that it has been. If he does not know, he may say 'I do not know', without presumption of other questions and inferences.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether this Rs. 2 crores loan given for agricultural purposes, is in addition to the Reserve Bank loan, for which about 25 per cent. interest was taken from the agriculturists?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is co-operative society.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is independent and stands by itself. It has nothing to do with that.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Do the Government propose to insist that the rate of interest which is charged from the cultivators will not be more than one per cent. beyond what the Government are charging from the States?

Shri Kidwai: I think the hon. Member knows that this is a question for the State Governments to decide; a deputation of the persons who receive the loans can raise this question with them, and arrange for it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Yesterday we were told that on the loan of money which was given through the local Government to the Co-operative Banks, they charged something like 9 to 12 per cent. from the cultivators, and perhaps more. I would like to ask the Government whether they propose to insist that not more than one per cent. more interest is charged from the cultivators. Otherwise, there is no use of giving any money to the States.

Shri Kidwai: This is a temporary short-term loan given for specific purposes. For instance, for Madras, this loan was given for distributing fertilisers, and they charged very nominal interest that would meet the expenses and the repayment of the loan.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is assumed that there are absolutely no other Assemblies in any part of India, that this is the only Assembly of Assemblies, and that every question ought to be put here. Hon. Members must know that there are other Governments responsible. Why not put them these questions and attack them?

Shri Kidwai: They should be attacked.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If necessary.

EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS SCHEME (REGIONAL COMMITTEES)

*381. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether and if so, how many Regional Committees have been constituted so far under para 4 of the Employees Provident Funds Scheme;

(b) whether and if so, how many State Boards as envisaged in the Scheme have been constituted so far; and

(c) the number of employees of different categories who have so far participated in the Scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No Regional Committees have been set up yet. It is, however, proposed to set up Regional Committees shortly for the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madras and Madhya Bharat.

(b) No State Board has been constituted. This question will be taken up as soon as the Central Government have established the scheme on a firm footing, after about a year.

(c) The total number of employees covered by the Act is about 13,77,000. Complete break-down information is being collected.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the number of industrial establishments that have come under the operation of this scheme?

Shri Abid Ali: I require notice, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the time-limit fixed for the receipt of applications under para. 27 of the Scheme has been extended, and if so, by what time?

Shri Abid Ali: By three months, it has been extended.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know how many applications for exemptions

from the operation of this Scheme have been received by the Government?

Shri Abid Ali: A very large number of applications has been received.

Shri Venkataraman: Has any one of them been disposed of yet?

Shri Abid Ali: Not yet.

Shri Venkataraman: Is it a fact that on account of the non-disposal of these applications for exemption, employees leaving the services are unable to withdraw money from the provident fund, and are put to a great deal of hardship?

Shri Abid Ali: We have not been informed of this position. If it is so, we will do all that is possible to relieve the workers of the hardship.

Shri S. C. Deb: Will the hon. Minister kindly inform us whether any Regional Committee will be instituted in the State of Assam?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: Will the hon. Minister kindly enquire whether in the Calcutta Jute Mills, because of non-disposal of such cases, a large number of employees has not been able to take loans out of the provident fund?

Shri Abid Ali: It is proposed that loan should not be given out of this fund.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any new industry has been brought into the operation of the scheme, since it came into force?

Shri K. K. Basu: My point was that in the case of individual employers, their employees are entitled to take loans out of this provident fund, but because this Act is going to be in force, many of them have asked for exemptions, and no decision has been taken. The whole thing is at a standstill. They are not allowing any loans to be given to the employees, who are normally entitled to them, under the old arrangement.

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. According to the former system, the money which was collected under the Provident Fund Scheme was being, in some cases, improperly utilised. Therefore the present Scheme envisages that the whole fund should come under the control of the Central Board of Trustees, and loans will not be permitted under this system.

EXTENSION OF TRAINS FROM THAWE TO CHUPRA

***382. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the Public for extension of the services of 103 Up and 110 Down trains from Thawe to Chupra and Chupra to Thawe on the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, whether this question has been examined?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A representation was received by the North Eastern Railway suggesting the stoppage of 15 Up and 16 Down Janata Express trains at all stations between Chupra and Savan or in the alternative the extension of 103 Up and 110 Down trains between Chupra and Savan on the main line.

(b) Yes. It has been decided to provide for the halt of 15 Up and 16 Down Janata Express trains at all stations between Chupra and Savan with effect from 1st April, 1953.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Do the Government know that the Janata Express does not go to Thawe?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know about that particular station, but the representation was for stopping the train in the section that has been mentioned, and from 1st April 1953, the Janata Express will stop at all the stations in this section.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it the same place as Chapra?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The time-tables are available. Hon. Members may go and see them.

Shri Alagesan: It is 'Chupra'.

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES UNION

***386. Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state why the Government of India have not so far recognised the "Civil Aviation Department Employees Union" incorporating the Unions of Aeronautical Communication Employees Union and Aerodrome Organisation of Employees Union?

(b) Have the Government of India got any objection to recognise the Civil Aviation Department Employees Union on the lines of Posts and Telegraphs Employees Union?