

1953, regarding the vending Contracts with Railways and state:

(a) whether this subject has since been discussed in the National Railway Users' Consultative Council and whether any new scheme has been proposed; and

(b) whether any attempt is made to get this work done through the Railway Workers' or Consumers' Co-operative Societies?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The subject was discussed at the meeting of the National Railway Users' Consultative Council, held at New Delhi on 27/28 October 1953. The matter is now under examination of Government in the light of the discussion at the meeting of the Council.

(b) Registered Co-operative Societies are also considered for the award of a catering and vending contracts at stations provided they have the experience, resources and ability to provide service of the required standard.

**Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** What were the new proposals made by the Consultative Council?

**Shri Alagesan:** This question was gone into very thoroughly and opinions were expressed as to the improvements that should be effected in the present catering and vending arrangements. In the light of the discussion that took place, Government is reconsidering the whole position.

**Shri Nanadas:** In giving contracts of these Railway catering, may I know whether any concessions are given to co-operative organisations?

**Shri Alagesan:** As stated in answer to part (b) of the question, co-operative societies are given preference over others if they come forward.

**Shri Nanadas:** What are the concessions given to them—specific concessions given?

**Shri Alagesan:** No concession is given to them. The concession is in

the consideration that is shown to them.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In view of the fact that the Railway has certain contracts, especially for catering, with firms for five years, has the Government considered the possibility of terminating such contracts if it is necessary to do so?

**Shri Alagesan:** Generally, the contracts are entered into for a period of three years.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know what is the time limit for the contract....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Member need not pursue a side issue.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** It is the main issue. It may not be possible to terminate the contracts, because under the contracts, certain firms have a right to be there for five years.

May I know the period of contract for the firm of Vallabhdas, catering in the Grand Trunk Express?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It is no use going into individual questions.

#### WORKERS IN RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS

\*51. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have received representations regarding the desirability of applying the provisions of the Factory Act, Payment of Wages Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, and Minimum Wages Act, to the workers employed at the sites of River Valley Projects?

(b) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) The Government of India have not received any such representation. An enquiry has been made from the State Governments concerned whether they have received any such representation and their replies are awaited.

(b) A number of labour laws, for example, the Factories Act, 1948, the

Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, are already applicable to the workers engaged in some of the operations connected with River Valley Projects. The question whether or to what extent the labour laws should be made applicable to all other workers employed in such Projects is under consideration.

**Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** May I know the operations where these Acts have been made applicable?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Such of the operations to which these Acts could be made applicable, within the scope of the respective Acts.

**Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** May I know whether these Acts have been made applicable outside the workshops that are covered by the Factories Act?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It will be very difficult to cover those operations which are outside the factories.

#### REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR MINERS

\*52. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Rehabilitation Centre at the premises of the Central Hospital at Dhanbad for disabled miners has been started;

(b) if so, what sort of assistance is rendered at the Centre;

(c) the number at present residing in the Centre; and

(d) whether any such centre has been started anywhere else in India?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Not yet.

(b) In the rehabilitation Centre, when started, disabled miners will be given requisite treatment and supplied with artificial limbs where necessary. Before discharge they will also be taught crafts suitable to their ability so that they may either go

back to their previous jobs or seek suitable alternative employment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is understood that there are some centres attached to the Military Hospital at Poona and to some of the Civil Hospitals like the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Bombay.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether miners other than coal miners will also be given this help?

**Shri Abid Ali:** No, Sir. Since this particular Centre will be worked by the Coal Mines Welfare Fund, other miners cannot be entitled to the relief there.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether, when these disabled miners are found to be permanently disabled, any gratuity or pension will be given to them? What arrangements have been made for that purpose?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The Workmen's Compensation Act applies to them also.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** May I know how long it will take for this Rehabilitation Centre at the Central Hospital, to start functioning?

**Shri Abid Ali:** For certain equipments which are not available in India, orders have been placed through the Supply Department in London. As soon as the equipments are received, the Centre will start working.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether there is any proposal to start a similar Centre for mica labourers?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Not at present.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF BOMBAY PORT

\*53. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating the development of Bombay Port; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this direction?