

Shri V. V. Giri: No, Sir.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that since April last the tea prices have been rocketing so much that 80 per cent. of the tea gardens made profit from last year's crop, i.e., 1952, which was the crisis year?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government is anxious to have the implementation of this thing.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: How are we to understand that anxiety? Will they have it done earlier?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have nothing to say except that the Government is actively looking into the matter.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether the Government admits that the delay in the implementation of the Plantations Labour Act is due to the slump in the prices?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know, Sir, whether it is open to the Government, by executive action, to delay the implementation of this Act which was passed after taking into consideration all the actual circumstances?

Shri V. V. Giri: Rules have to be framed. They have not been framed yet. Therefore, there is delay in the implementation: especially on account of the fact that there was a depression and a team was sent to study the question. All these things delayed the whole matter and now we are dealing with the situation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know what is the machinery they have in the Labour Department to implement the decision passed by this House—especially about the Plantations Labour Act?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have already stated the reasons why it could not be done.

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ACT

*1191. **Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government

have decided to set up regional committees to supervise the work in connection with the Employees' Provident Fund Act?

(b) If so, what would be the functions of these committees?

(c) Has the regional committee for Bihar been set up?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes. Regional Committees have been formed in the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Madhya Bharat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) The function of these Committees is to advise the Central Board on such matters as the Central Board may refer to them.

(c) Yes.

Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha: May I know whether the Bihar Members have been selected and, how they were selected?

Shri V. V. Giri: Shri R. S. Hegde, I.A.S., Secretary to Government Bihar, Chairman, Shri B. P. Singh, Shri H. Prasad, Shri R. S. Modi, Shri H. D. Vishnu, Shri K. D. Phillip, Shri Biswan Singh, Shri Biren Roy and Shri M. John.

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

*1192. **Shri Vallabharas:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the class IV employees of the Civil Aviation Department have specified hours of work and weekly off-day?

(b) Is there any proposal to reduce the hours of work from 12 hours to 8 hours a day in regard to the said employees?

(c) Are these employees having the benefit of the General Provident Fund Scheme?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Except in the case of certain Chowkidars employed in the Civil Aviation Department, all other class IV employees are working to normal office