

CENTRAL LABOUR TRIBUNALS

*1576. **Dr. Natabar Pandey:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of Industrial Dispute cases decided by the Labour Board and Tribunals in 1952 and 1953?

(b) How many of them went to the Appellate Tribunals and with what results?

(c) In how many cases have the employees been reinstated owing to their wrongful dismissal?

(d) Will Government lay a statement containing information in detail on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No Conciliation Board was appointed by the Central Government during this period. Of the disputes referred by the Central Government to Industrial Tribunals for adjudication, awards were given in 18 and 50 cases in 1952 and 1953 respectively.

(b) to (d). Information is being collected and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

JUTE

*1577. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of jute in Tripura in 1953-54;

(b) what was the average price of jute sold that year;

(c) what is the difference in prices per maund prevailing at Tripura and West Bengal; and

(d) the reasons for the difference, if any?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) 38,000 bales.

(b) to (d). The information has been asked for from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

SUGAR-CANE

*1578. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity (in tons) of cane crushed by the sugar mills in Bihar during the present season; and

(b) how it compares with the cane crushed during the last season?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). The sugar mills in Bihar crushed 14.47 lakh tons of sugarcane during the current season as against 27.20 lakh tons in the 1952-53 season.

Shri Anirudha Sinha: May I know the factors contributory to the decline in the supply of sugarcane to the different mills of Bihar?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Various factors are responsible for the decline. There has been a fall of about fifteen to twenty per cent. in the area under sugarcane cultivation, due to adverse weather conditions during the sowing period, damage by floods, diversion from sugar to gur manufacture because of attractive prices, etc.

Shri Anirudha Sinha: Is it a fact that other money crops are proving more remunerative than sugarcane, to the kisans? If so, what steps have Government taken or propose to take to improve the method of cultivation, and also to increase the area under sugarcane cultivation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is a controversial matter. The question whether other crops are remunerative or not depends upon the existence of controls or decontrol. If there is decontrol, foodgrains get sometimes lower prices, as it happened in Punjab last year.

Shri Anirudha Sinha: What steps do Government propose to take to increase the area under sugarcane cultivation, and also to improve the method and yield thereof?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We want to encourage sugarcane cultivation, so

that we may stop all imports at some stage. Last year, we had to import some sugar, and this year also we have to import some sugar. We would like to stop these imports. So, we want to increase the sugarcane production in the country. With this end in view, we are giving manure loans to the cultivators, and also providing more irrigation facilities to the cane growers, by constructing more tubewells, as has been done in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. We are giving these facilities, with a view to increasing the yield.

Dr. Rama Rao: How far is this reduction due to the lower price of cane?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That I cannot say.

Shri Kelappan: What proportion of this production goes to the sugar mills?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are supposed to produce about fifty-two lakhs of tons, speaking in terms of jaggery, in this country; out of this, ten and a quarter lakhs of tons is sugar.

WORKERS IN SALT INDUSTRY

*1580. **Shri Keshavaiengar:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the condition of the workers in the salt industry;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ameliorate their condition;

(c) what is the total number of salt workers in India; and

(d) what is the amount of foreign exchange earned by exporting salt in 1952 and 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Information from the State Governments concerned is being collected.

(c) the average number of daily labour engaged in the Salt industry is about 32,000.

(d) The foreign exchange earned by the export of salt in 1952 and 1953 is

about Rs. 57 lakhs and Rs. 45 lakhs respectively.

Shri Keshavaiengar: May I know whether this figure of 32,000 includes seasonal workers, and if not, the figure including seasonal workers?

Shri Abid Ali: It includes seasonal workers, but during the season, the number increases to about 56,000.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the reason for not applying the Factories Act to these salt factories, even though these salt factories are for all practical purposes, factories?

Shri Abid Ali: Wherever it can be made applicable, the Factories Act is applied.

Shri Keshavaiengar: May I know whether the Minimum Wages Act is applicable to these workers, whether any minimum wage has been fixed for them, and if so, what that minimum wage is?

Shri Abid Ali: The Government of Bombay have already included employment in the salt industry in the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act. The Governments of Travancore-Cochin and Saurashtra are considering the question of including the employment in this industry in the Schedule to the Act.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know the countries to which salt is being exported?

Shri Abid Ali: Mostly to Japan.

IMPORT OF RAW SUGAR

*1582. **Shri Kasliwal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any applications from some sugar merchants have been received for the import of raw sugar;

(b) whether Government propose to issue or have issued the necessary permits for the import of raw sugar; and

(c) if so, how much raw sugar will be imported?