

Mr. Speaker: Let the information be collected. Next question.

Shri Nanadas: I want to ask one more question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

CONFERENCES OF ENGINEERS

***777. Shri Ramachandra Reddi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of conferences of Chief Engineers of the Centre and States convened by Government during 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) the decisions taken and the implementation of such decisions to evolve a uniform and co-ordinated policy?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathhi): (a) One in 1952-53 and one in 1953-54.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 49.]

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: From the statement, it is found that the conclusions reached were in the nature of recommendations. May I know how many of these recommendations have been examined, how many accepted and how many implemented?

Shri Hathhi: They are still under examination.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that one of the demands of this Engineers' conference was that they should be given Secretariat jobs, and if so, what was the Government's reaction?

Shri Hathhi: Perhaps the hon. Member is mixing up the conferences which are under reply and the conference of the Central Board of Irrigation and Power. That conference is not the subject-matter under reply and the Government did not convene that conference.

RAILWAY COLLIERIES

***778. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state the approximate total number of labourers working in the Railway Collieries at present?

(b) In how many of these Collieries has the contract system of coal raising been abolished?

(c) What was the total amount paid to the contractors under this system during 1952-53?

(d) What is the total wage bill of labour during 1953-54 on this account?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) About 29,140.

(b) The system has already been abolished in nine out of the eleven Railway Collieries. A decision has been taken to abolish the contract system in the two remaining collieries also and every endeavour will be made to complete this by 1st April, 1954.

(c) Rs. 49,77,046

(d) Rs. 30,71,644 (upto 31-1-1954).

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Was there any fall in the output of coal as compared to last year?

Shri R. G. Dubey: This relates to the output.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps he wants to know the effect of the abolition of the contract system and its benefit.

Shri R. G. Dubey: So far as my knowledge goes, it has not affected the output of coal.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: To what factor is the fall in the revenue of Railway collieries due?

Mr. Speaker: This does not seem to arise out of the question.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the labourers in the Railway collieries are paid according to the

Central Pay Commission's recommendations, and is there any category of workers who are not yet paid according to these recommendations?

Shri R. G. Dubey: This is a different question, but I should like to say, subject to correction, that the recommendations have been substantially implemented. As the cases are brought to the notice of the local authorities, they are being reviewed.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know if Government have already taken a decision that the management and control of Railway collieries will be made over to the Ministry of Production by the Railway Ministry? If so, from when?

Shri R. G. Dubey: From 1st April.

COFFEE

*779. **Shri N. Somana:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any portion of last year's coffee crop is still remaining unsold with the Coffee Board;

(b) if so, the quantity;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to permit any export of coffee in the near future;

(d) if so, how much; and

(e) the present price of coffee?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Approximately 2,774 tons at the end of February, 1954;

(c) and (d). 1,000 tons have been recently released for export out of the 1953-54 crop. The question of releasing further quantities will be decided from time to time.

(e) The average price realised in the Pool Auctions in February, 1954, was Rs. 210/3 per cwt. for Plantation A, Rs. 183/1 for Arabica Cherry Flats and Rs. 139/6 for Robusta Cherry Flats, ex bags ex works (exclusive of Sales Tax, but including Excise Duty).

Shri N. Somana: May I know whether it is Robusta or Arabica that was released for export?

Shri Karmarkar: Arabica.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether this policy of granting restricted export permits is due to any desire on the part of the Government to propagate use of coffee in this country or due to any want of demand from outside?

Shri Karmarkar: The consumers are demanding greater quantity of coffee inside the country. Therefore, our export policy has to be related to the internal demand.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if owing to the non-export of surplus coffee in time the Coffee Board had to incur large losses on account of dry age and warehousing charges? If so, what is the estimated loss?

Shri Karmarkar: I do not think there is any loss.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether a deputation of coffee planters waited on the hon. Minister recently and represented that in case the coffee stocks are not cleared, the coffee may deteriorate, and if so, what assurance was given by the hon. Minister to the deputationists?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not aware of that deputation, but so far as the stocks are concerned, they are not such a quantity as will result in loss either to the growers or to the Coffee Board.

Shri A. M. Thamos: May I know the total quantity exported so far? May I also have an idea of the world price of coffee now, and whether there is any wide disparity between the local prices and the world price?

Shri Karmarkar: About world prices, I have no figures at the moment. The total quantity exported last year was 3,000 tons, and during the current year up till now, 1,000 tons have been permitted to be exported. We are likely to export more in the future.