

knows, have been started on the recommendations of a special Jute Committee. The farms that exist by now are not so big as these. They are only of ten, twenty or thirty acres—very small farms which are under the Department. The State farms are entirely different. They will be entirely meant for jute cultivation with improved variety of jute seeds.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Who will finance, the Union Government or the State Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Partly the Union Government and partly the State Government—we have promised them loans.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, when is the target for additional production of jute, as fixed under the Five Year Plan, expected to be reached?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We hope to reach the target fixed in the Five Year Plan. They have fixed about 53.9 lac bales.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the Orissa Government has refused to have a farm of this kind where experimental work will, as I understand, be taken up for improving the yield as well as the quality of jute?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They have not refused. They have already some farms under their departmental care. They want to see whether they will be able to produce the same results in the same farms instead of spending money on new farms. That is their view.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

*380. **Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the results of the sample survey made on the conditions of agricultural labour in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the results?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). The results of the first stage of the Agricultural Labour Enquiry were published in two volumes early in 1953 in a Monograph

entitled "Agricultural Wages in India". The report of the second stage is under print. As regards the results of the third and final stage, namely, the Intensive Family Survey, the report on States is under print, while the 'All-India' report is in the final stage of preparation. A statement giving the main results of the three stages of the Enquiry is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See Library Index No. S.45/54.]

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether the Central Government has elicited the opinions of the State Governments?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir. I invite the hon. Member to read the statement placed on the Table of the House. It contains a lot of information

Shri Thimmaiah: It does not contain the opinions of the State Governments.

Shri V. V. Giri: It is also based on the opinions of the State Governments.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether the Government propose to bring comprehensive legislation to fix minimum wages for agricultural labourers?

Shri V. V. Giri: There is legislation.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to institute a Committee to go into the conditions of agricultural labour?

Shri V. V. Giri: There is nothing here. It may be in the contemplation of the States.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I would like to know whether there is any difference between the wages paid to agricultural men labour and women labour? Is there any average of wages for women labour which has been worked out by this enquiry?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know what it is?

Shri V. V. Giri: The hon. Member may refer to the statement; it is there.

RAILWAY ENGINEERS

***381. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pool of Temporary Class I Railway Engineers forms a separate cadre and that in the matter of promotion etc., the cases of these Engineers go by default and preference is shown to other Class I officers outside the pool?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take in this regard?

(c) Do Government propose to take early steps to absorb them permanently in Class I and fix their seniority in consideration of their length of service?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The temporary Engineers are not borne on the cadre of permanent Class I officers and are not eligible for promotion to higher posts along with the permanent officers; they are, however, considered for officiating promotion against temporary Senior Scale posts on constructions or other *ex-cadre* posts, provided they are otherwise suitable for such promotion.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a) of the question, no action is considered necessary.

(c) The Government are considering the question of permanent absorption of the Temporary Engineers as an *ex gratia* measure. The question of fixing seniority is to be decided later.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know how long it will take to bring about the absorption mentioned by the hon. Minister?

Shri Alagesan: It is under consideration even now. It would not take long, I may tell the hon. Member.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: That is very vague.

Shri K. K. Basu: Very slow like the Assam Railway.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is it likely to go beyond my life time?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

BIDI WORKERS' UNION

***382. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum was submitted to him by the Bidi Workers' Union of Mysore city when he visited that place recently; and

(b) what action Government have taken to redress their grievances?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). A Memorandum was presented by the Ramanagaram Bidi Mazdoor Association. The following four points were raised in the Memorandum:—

- (i) Application of the Employees' Provident Fund Act to bidi workers.
- (ii) Provision of housing facilities.
- (iii) Location of a Bench of the Labour Appellate Tribunal at Hyderabad or Bangalore.
- (iv) Appointment of a committee to inquire into the wages and living conditions of bidi workers.

Until the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme has been stabilised in its present form and sufficient experience gained of its working, it is not considered desirable to extend the Employees' Provident Funds Act to any industry other than the six industries now covered by it. The matters raised in items (ii) and (iv) are primarily the concern of the State Government. As regards item (iii), a Bench of the Labour Appellate Tribunal periodically visits Madras and sometimes Bangalore to hear appeals arising from the States of Madras, Mysore, Coorg, etc.