

terms and conditions under which the work can be taken up by the Central Tractor Organisation. Further action in the matter will be taken after the State Government's reply is received and the area is inspected by the C.T.O.'s Engineers.

**Shri Gadlingana Gowd:** Are Government aware that the waters of the Tungabhadra Reservoir were allowed to go to Krishna river, as the lands in the Tungabhadra project are not ready for cultivation? If so, what further action Government has taken to reclaim the lands?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is for the State Government to put things right.

**Shri Raghuramaiah:** May I know whether the request also comprised tractors for the Agency Areas in Godavari and Visakhapatnam?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the information.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Does Tungabhadra flow into Godavari river? This relates to Tungabhadra.

**Shri Raghuramalah:** I want to know whether the Andhra Government have, in the same requisition, also mentioned the necessity of sending tractors to Godavari and Visakhapatnam area?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This relates only to Tungabhadra project.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Tungabhadra waters are being taken into West Godavari.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether the Central Government called for information regarding private lands and State Government lands?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No, Sir. We have not gone so deep as that.

**Shri Meghnad Saha:** May I know whether it is a fact that there is a likelihood of there being some time lag between the completion of the dam and starting of the reclamation work?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have no information on that point because we  
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are at the present time dealing with what the C.T.O. can do so far as the reclamation work in Andhra is concerned.

#### BETEL-NUTS

\*1339. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that booking of betel-nut in Sagar, Shimoga, Palghat, Hubli and other areas are frequently suspended; and

(b) how many times booking of betel-nut has been suspended from these stations since 1st January, 1951?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Abgesam):** (a) and (b). On occasions when it unavoidably becomes necessary to impose operational restrictions on the movement of traffic generally from the areas concerned, the movement of traffic in betel-nuts is also affected. During the 3 years from 1951 no restriction was imposed for traffic from Palghat, and the movement of traffic including betel-nuts from metre gauge stations on the Mysore Region, which include Sagar and Shimoga, remained restricted on an average per year as follows:—

via Dharmavaram on 3 occasions.

via Guntakal on 7 occasions.

via Gadag & Hubli on 3 occasions.

via Bangalore City on 14 occasions.

The average duration of restriction on each occasion did not exceed a week.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** I could not follow anything nor could I hear anything. If the hon. Minister cannot talk a bit louder, he could ask somebody else....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I was able to hear; unfortunately, some times hon. Members are absent-minded.

**Shri Wodeyar:** May I know the number of wagons required for the transport of betel-nuts from these stations and whether all these wagons were supplied in time?

**Shri Alagesan:** The traffic in respect of betel-nuts has been provided with wagons but for the restrictions indicated; but I may say they move in small lots and they do not move in wagon loads.

**Shri Wodeyar:** Has Government received any complaints regarding railway transport difficulties, and if so, what action has Government taken?

**Shri Alagesan:** I am not aware of any such complaints.

#### OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

\*1346. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether a survey was conducted in the Storage Battery industry with regard to occupational diseases?

(b) If so, what was the incidence of affection with regard to (i) urine lead values and (ii) blood lead values?

(c) What was the average concentration of lead in workroom atmosphere?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Yes.

(b) 123 workers (56.5 per cent.) showed urine lead values in excess of 0.1 mg./litre and 84 workers (48.7 per cent.) showed blood lead values in excess of 0.8 mg./100 c.c.

(c) The average concentration of lead in the workroom atmosphere at different operations was far in excess of 1.5 mg. per 10 cubic meters, which is the accepted maximum allowable concentration of lead in an atmosphere where a worker has to spend 8 hours a day.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** May I know whether Government consider this occupational disease of workers to the extent of over 50 per cent. as a very high percentage, and if so, what steps do they propose to take?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** The Chief Adviser of Factories has gone into the whole question and has sent directions; a report on it has been circulated to the States.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Is it a fact that this fact came to the notice of the Government in 1951 and that up till now nothing has been done?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I do not know if nothing has been done but I take the information for the rest of the question from the hon. Member.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Is it a fact that the employers are carrying on publicity that the workers are not performing their part of the work, and in view of such a heavy occupational disease do the Government consider that such a propaganda is wrong and has to be counteracted?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I take the information from the hon. Member and I shall enquire into it.

**Shri K. P. Tripathi:** May I know whether the Government consider that in view of this some compensation is due to the workers, and if so, whether Government propose to bring forward some such legislation?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I promise I would go into the matter.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether the Government are satisfied that the natural precautions for ventilation and other working conditions are being taken in the factories now-a-days?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** They are being taken. The Factory Inspectors are there.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** Are people suffering from this occupational disease entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is matter of opinion.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** Does the Act provide for compensation or not?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He can get a copy of the Act from the Library.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** When an occupational disease is declared to be so, the workers are entitled to compensation in accordance with the Workmen's Compensation Act. Will