

**Shri V. V. Giri:** That is the function of the State Government.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** The determination of the most representative character of the central trade union organisations being the function of the Central Government, may I know what steps the Central Government have taken to verify the membership?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** I think later it was done.

#### WATER CONSERVATION IN ANDHRA

\*1451. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of officers is proposed to be sent to Andhra area to study the problems of water conservation in drought-affected areas; and

(b) if so, at what stage is the scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) and (b). It was suggested to the Government of Andhra that a team of officers might be sent from the Centre to examine their various Grow More Food Schemes which could be taken up during the period of the First Five Year Plan. While the study of water conservation in drought affected areas was not specifically mentioned, the proposed team could also take up such matters in examining minor irrigation schemes of the State. The State Government have accepted the proposal but have not fixed the date for the visit of the team pending the reorganisation of their Development Department.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether these proposals include also the investigation in subsoil resources in the drought-affected areas?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I have already stated in the main answer that this may be one of the items to be investigated by that team.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether such investigations are

proposed to be conducted in other parts of the country, subject to this drought?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I visited Andhra immediately after the formation of that State. on 25th October 1953, and after my return I discussed the matter in detail with my Minister for agriculture about the proposal. The Minister of Agriculture thereafter wrote a demi-official letter to the Chief Minister of the Andhra State, suggesting this team of officers to go there and investigate the various schemes that are to be undertaken under minor irrigation works.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know when the proposals will be finalised, and the team of officers actually sent?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We are awaiting the reply of the Chief Minister of the Andhra State.

**Shri Lakshmayya:** May I know the number of officers that this team will consist of?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It will consist of four to five experts from our Ministry.

**Shri Lakshmayya:** May I know whether contour bunding is one of the schemes to be explored by this team of officers?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is already being undertaken in Andhra in the Rayalaseema area, in Chittoor District. I think this team will take that point also into consideration.

#### RAILWAY CLAIMS

\*1452. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims registered in the North Eastern Railway in 1952-53 and in 1953-54 so far and the amount claimed in those years; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there is often delay in the settlement of the claims?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Statistics showing the amount of claims

preferred are not maintained by the Railways. The number of claims settled and the amount paid by the North-Eastern Railway during 1952-53 were 33,905 and Rs. 36.76 lacs respectively. The number of claims settled and the amount of claims paid during 1953-54 upto the end of January 1954, were approximately 27,904 and 29.49 lacs respectively.

(b) There is some delay in complicated cases, but directions have been issued for taking expeditious steps in all cases pertaining to claims.

**Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** May I know whether there has been any improvement in the settlement of claims, after the transfer of the Claims Office from Gorakhpur?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** The hon. Member means the transfer to Calcutta? There has been no deterioration even.

**श्री रघुनाथ सिंह:** एक वर्ष के अन्दर कितने क्लेमस का भुगतान हुआ है ?

**श्री शाहनवाज खां:** अभी अर्ज कर चुका हूँ ।

**Shri Muniswamy:** In cases where high compensation claims were made, what steps were taken by Government to investigate into the matter before taking a decision thereon?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Before a claim is finally settled and payment is made, a very thorough investigation is carried out, after which only the claim is settled.

**Shri Muniswamy:** It is a fact that a special officer was appointed to investigate into the cases where high compensation claims were made, and if so who was that officer?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** It is a very common occurrence that very exagge-

rated claims are put forward. But the Railways in every case thoroughly scrutinise and then settle the claims.

#### RAILWAY COMPLAINTS

\*1453. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure laid down by Government to deal with complaints made by the public;

(b) what steps are taken to ensure that the complaints are dealt with promptly; and

(c) whether it is customary not to disclose to complainants details of the punishment imposed on the staff in such cases?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) A special section known as Complaints Section has been organised at the Headquarters of each Railway Administration to deal with complaints of all types.

(b) A quarterly report showing the number of complaints received, number enquired into and the average time taken to dispose of a complaint is required to be submitted to the Railway Board by each Railway Administration.

(c) Yes.

**ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह:** क्या सरकार यह बतला सकती है कि एक केस के डिस्पोजल में औसतन कितना समय लगता है ?

**श्री शाहनवाज खां:** वह शिकायत की नबईयत पर मुहसर है ।

**ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह:** मेरा सवाल यह है कि एवरेज क्या है ?

**श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री:** इस बात का एवरेज तो नहीं निकाला गया है, लेकिन आम तौर से जितनी जल्दी मुमकिन होता है खत्म करने की कोशिश की जाती है ।