

(b) if so, what is the decision of the Government in respect of that representation?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Yes. The Federation submitted a Charter of demands including a demand for revision of the existing Wage Structure and requested Government to refer the matters in dispute to a Conciliation Board or an Industrial Tribunal for settlement.

(b) All interests concerned are being consulted and Government hope to come to a decision soon.

#### COAL MINE WORKERS

**\*636. Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the steps contemplated by Government for meeting the situation arising out of the statutory reduction in the output of the metallurgical coal, resulting in the unemployment of a large number of coal mine workers; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for the employment of the retrenched coal mine workers?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) and (b). The steps to be adopted for the conservation of metallurgical coal are under examination by the Coal Board. Unemployment of a large number of coal mine workers need not be a necessary concomitant of any steps that may be taken in this behalf. If such a contingency were to be likely the Coal Board would doubtless make appropriate recommendations to meet such a situation, and Government will at that stage consider what action, if any, is necessary on their part.

#### MINIMUM WAGES ACT

**\*637. Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) when the Minimum Wages Act was passed;

(b) when it was to be implemented;

(c) in how many States it has been implemented and in how many industries upto April, 1952;

(d) whether Government propose to lay on the Table a statement containing detailed information regarding its implementation State-wise and industry-wise; and

(e) what is the last date for the implementation of the provisions of the Act?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) 9th February 1948.

(b) and (c). The 31st March, 1952 was the last date by which minimum rates of wages were to be fixed in respect of the employments mentioned in Part I of the Schedule to the Act, while such rates are to be fixed in respect of the employments mentioned in Part II of the Schedule before the 31st December 1953.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 51.]

#### MINING INDUSTRY

**\*638. Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) when the committee appointed to enquire into the conditions of mining industry submitted its report to Government;

(b) whether Government have reached any decision regarding its recommendations;

(c) whether the Committee recommended any special scheme for the rationalisation of the working of our mines and also for their ownership; and

(d) if so, what are its recommendations and Government's decision thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) No such Committee has been appointed by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### RESEARCH ON EFFECTS OF IRRIGATION

**\*639. Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the investigations which are expected to be carried on at the Poona Station for Central Water and Power Research; and

(b) whether such investigations include the effects of irrigation on erosion, silting, growth of salinity, improvement in fertility of soil, productivity, vegetation, local humidity, drainage facilities and malaria?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a) The Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, deals with the problems relating to:

(i) River and Canal Hydraulics.

(ii) Navigation.

(iii) Soils and soil Mechanics.

(iv) Concrete and material of construction.

(v) Statistics.

(vi) Hydraulic Machinery.

In addition, the Station also carries out model experiments on the designs and construction of masonry structures to effect economy and efficiency on the river valley projects in India and on the principal waterways and harbours in this country.

(b) The investigations in the Station include silting of the canals and growth of salinity only.

#### RESEARCH CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ARID ZONES

\*640. **Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) where the Research Centre for Development of Arid Zones will be located; and

(b) what is the nature of the studies which are to be made in it?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a) The 'Indian Development and Research Centre' is proposed to be located at Jodhpur.

(b) The centre, when set up, will be engaged on the task of formulating an integrated programme for the optimum development of water resources of Rajasthan. It will also co-ordinate and continue the various aspects of work that are being carried out by the Central and different State agencies for the reclamation of the arid lands of Rajasthan. Geological, geophysical, hydrological and other related surveys and investigations will be taken up by this Centre.

#### COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN BIHAR

\*641. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) the principles on the basis whereof Community Project Centres have been selected in Bihar State; and

(b) the nature of the schemes of development to be executed there?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a) Attention is invited to my reply to Shri Ghamandilal Bansal's question No. 31 on the 19th May, 1952.

(b) These are basic types as defined in the "Community Projects—a Draft Outline."

#### KRISHNA RIVER VALLEY SCHEMES

\*642. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been reached regarding the priority to be given to the various Krishna River Valley Schemes that have been investigated; and

(b) if so, what is the order of priority?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a), No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Khaddar

\*643. **Shri Jhulan Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) if the *Khaddar* (handspun and handwoven cloth) Industry has been given any encouragement and protection by the Government of India and if so, the nature and extent thereof; and

(b) if any case of the breach of the provisions of the *Khaddar* Name Protection Act has come to the notice of the Government of India and if so, whether any action has been taken in respect thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The Government of India have decided to purchase as far as possible one third of their requirements of cloth in the form of handloom products including *khadi*. During the year 1951-52, a sum of Rs. 2 lacs has been given as grants-in-aid to *khadi* producing centres for promotion of *khaddar* production.

(b) No such case has come to Government's notice.

#### WORKING HOURS OF JUTE MILLS

\*644. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working hours of jute mills in West Bengal have been reduced with effect from April, 1952; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir, with effect from 31st March, 1952.