

Shri V. V. Giri: I am not able to follow. The question is not clear.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Punnoose: What percentage of labour has got the benefit of the minimum wages?

Shri V. V. Giri: The industries have been mentioned in Part I of the Schedule attached to the enactment. If the hon. Member refers to that schedule he will know to what industries this Minimum Wages Act applies.

Mr. Speaker: The question is vague. To my mind the point is what is the percentage of people who have got the benefit as compared to the totality of the labour employed in the State.

Shri V. V. Giri: To those workers working in the particular industries referred to in Part I to all of them the benefits accrue.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how many States have so far implemented the provisions as regards Agricultural labour?

Shri V. V. Giri: Some of the States have implemented in part with regard to agricultural labour and we are persuading them to implement everywhere.

Shri H. N. Shastri: Are the Government aware that in certain States the Minimum Wages Act has been implemented to the detriment of labour with the result that even the existing wages have been drastically curtailed?

Shri V. V. Giri: The Government is going into that matter.

Shri Venkataraman: May I ask, Sir, whether there is any proposal before the Government to extend the time for implementing the minimum wages regarding agricultural labour?

INTERNATIONAL GRASS LAND CONGRESS

*61. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was represented at the Sixth International Grass Land Congress held in Pennsylvania during August, 1952; and

(b) whether any decisions taken there were of special interest to India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did our representative bring any seeds from U.S.A. for experiment here?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think so. At least I do not know. He was not sent for bringing any seeds any way.

Sardar Hukam Singh: In the Press interview that he gave an indication that he was taking those seeds to India. I want to know whether he did bring these seeds and whether any experiment has been made so far in growing those seeds?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know Sir.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did he make any report to Government and has that been examined?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The report has not yet come to my hands.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: With reference to Part I what are the decisions that have been taken in that Congress?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No decisions as such were taken. The Conference of Scientists working in different regions of the world gave very useful and valuable information on the methods of research carried on in other countries. The specific subjects were as follows:

Managements of pastures by seeding; application of fertilisers widely practised in the U.S.A.; mechanisation in the farm, and fourthly the development of seeds mixture for fodder grass and manure for pastures.

These were the various subjects that were discussed and very valuable information was given. It was also suggested that each country should have a national policy of grasslands which will include research, survey extension and management of grasslands.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Have our Planning Commission recommended any policy for national grasslands for our country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not to my knowledge.

MESSRS. SCHLIEREN OF SWITZERLAND

*62. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different forms of technical aid received so far by the Government of India from Messrs. Schlieren of Switzerland under the technical aid Agreement entered into with the firm;

(b) what is the total expenditure incurred on this account giving separate figures on each head;

(c) the number of all-metal light weight coaching stock received so far; and

(d) at what stage the scheme of setting up of a factory in India for the manufacture of all-metal light weight coaches stands?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a)

(i) Assistance given by Messrs. Schlieren's experts to our technical staff in the design of all-metal light-weight coaching stock;

(ii) Advice on the design of a factory suitable for construction of light-weight coaching stock;

(iii) Details and specification of plant, machinery and equipment necessary for the factory.

(iv) Training of Indian designers and draughtsmen in the Schlieren factory in Switzerland.

(b) The total expenditure incurred so far in connection with the technical aid is:

	Rs.
(i) Annual basic fees.	8-70 lakhs.
(ii) Miscellaneous payments Schlieren experts visiting India.	2-00 lakhs.
(iii) Foreign allowances to Indian draughtsmen sent to Switzerland.	- 19 lakhs.
	<hr/> 10-89 lakhs. <hr/>

(c) 2 Prototypes and 24 fully furnished coaches have been received in India up to date.

(d) An estimate of Rs. 2.68 crores has been sanctioned for the civil engineering works of the factory. Contracts for construction of 3 shops have been placed and tenders have been called for the remainder of the work. Other works like construction of staff quarters, levelling of ground, yard remodelling, etc. are also in hand.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that it was not possible for the Government of India to make full use of the agreement and, if so, what was the reason for it?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, it is true in the sense that we were not able to send the requisite number of experts to Switzerland in the first year of the agreement.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether any steps have been taken by the Government after seeing the audit comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir, I might at once say that we are going to revise the agreement.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether steps have been taken to rectify the defects in the agreement and other necessary actions have been taken to implement fully this agreement in the coming three years.

Shri Alagesan: My answer covers this point also.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied that the persons to be sent to Switzerland for training are sent in time before the agreement comes to an end?

Shri Alagesan: The agreement covers a long period of 12 years; it won't come to an end so soon. We shall be sending our experts also soon.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: How does the cost of the all-metal coaches manufactured by this firm compare with the costs of the all-metal coaches manufactured by the Hindustan Aircraft Factory.

Shri Alagesan: If the figures are wanted I shall give them.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know what is the amount paid so far to that firm?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. We have paid advance amounts for our orders placed in the first two years as follows:

In the first year 30.47 lakhs;

In the second year 31.40 lakhs;

and towards coaches received on account 45.92 lakhs.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is this an agreement one that is enforceable at law and is there any clause in the agreement providing for cancellation of the contract in case of breach of contract by the Swiss firm?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. One is a matter of opinion. The other is a matter of record.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when the first order was placed for these coaches?

Shri Alagesan: The first order was placed in the year 1950.

Shri S. N. Das: Is it a fact that orders were placed and the firm was not able to supply the coaches in time; if so, what action has been taken by the Government against the firm?

Shri Alagesan: It is true that the firm was not able to supply the first order, but it is implementing it and delivering the coaches now.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

CALICUT-TELLICHERRY ROAD LINK

*63. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the construction of an alternate road in Malabar, from Calicut to Tellicherry avoiding the French Settlement of Mahe was ever considered by Government after or before the Mahe incidents of October, 1948?

(b) If so, is the proposal still under consideration or has it been dropped?

(c) Was the conversion of the Mahe Railway bridge into a combined rail-road bridge considered in this connection?

(d) If the proposal for an alternate road is still under consideration, has the alignment of the road been finally settled and if so, what is the alignment?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The matter is being examined by Madras Government as this pertains to a State highway.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: Are Government aware that huge sums of money belonging to Indian citizens...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a matter under the purview of the Madras Government.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: But it is a question in which the Government of India must be interested, because it relates to a French territory.

Mr. Speaker: How does it affect the liability of the Central Government? I think that this question was dealt with in part yesterday.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: It was not, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Minister got any information?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. It concerns the Madras Government and they are in the midst of negotiations with the French authorities.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

NEW TYPE OF PLOUGH

*64. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a new simple steel plough especially designed for Indian agriculture has recently been produced at Kannur?

(b) If so, who are the experts and technicians that have designed and manufactured the same?

(c) What basic changes in the ordinary ploughs in use in India have been made to turn out this new type of plough?

(d) What is the cost of production and what steps are Government taking to popularise this new type of plough?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Government are aware that a new plough known as 'Care Plough' has been produced at Kanpur.

(b) **Shri V. C. Kapoor** of M/s Cossul & Co. Kanpur and **Shri H. Skinner**, an American technician, have jointly designed the plough and M/s Cossul & Co. Ltd. Kanpur are manufacturing the same.

(c) Government are informed that this plough is a multi-purpose plough for all common types of cultivation work including levelling and earthing standing crops of *Sanai* for green manuring. The mould board, share and the land slides are of steel. The 11 ft. beam is adjustable to the size of bullocks. The plough bottom is replaceable by a furrower. It can be fitted to a country plough for preparing seed beds. The plough, however, has not been tested by the manufacturers for the draft required to pull it.

(d) About Rs. 51/- per piece complete with beam and handle but without attachments. The plough is still being tried and Government will decide whether to encourage it or not only after the results of these trials are known.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government have been exceptionally pleased with the new plough and they intend to distribute it amongst the needy cultivators? Has that work begun in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It has not begun in India. The "Care plough" under reference has not been brought into this country, but the manufacturers have sold it and it has been reported that many ploughs of this type have been produced by the Co-operatives for American Remittances to Europe and Asia for export to foreign countries. It is under trial so far as India is concerned.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how this plough compares with the double sheared plough that has been manufactured in the Pusa Institute?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It has certain advantages, but the final decision of