

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Wednesday, 10th December, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven
of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION

*1086. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Ceylon Government has declined to ratify the International Labour Organization Convention regarding "migration for employment"?

(b) If so, how has it affected the status of Indian workers in Ceylon?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (**Shri Abid Ali**): (a) Ceylon has not so far ratified the I.L.O. Convention No. 97, concerning "migration for employment".

(b) If the Convention had been ratified by the Ceylon Government, it would have been helpful in ensuring that no discrimination is practised between the Indian and the Ceylonese labour in regard to social security benefits, wages, holidays with pay, trade union rights etc. Non-ratification does not ensure these protections for Indian workers.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India had been informed of the reason which led Ceylon not to ratify the I.L.O. Convention?

Shri Abid Ali: It is not necessary, Sir, for the Ceylon Government to inform the Government of India. With regard to the non-ratification of the Convention the I.L.O. takes the necessary steps. There is a regular procedure for it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government has any idea of the number of labourers who are likely to be affected by this non-ratification of the Convention?

Shri Abid Ali: About 750,000.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India would move in the matter and, if so, what will the Government do for this?

Shri Abid Ali: This point, Sir, comes before the I.L.O. periodically and, as I have already stated, there is a regular procedure for it. I am thankful to the hon. Member for the suggestion.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether India has ratified the Convention, and, if so, when?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir; India has not ratified the Convention.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the Government aware, Sir, that for several years, the Ceylon Government has not been sending labour delegates to the I.L.O. Conferences, because the labour in Ceylon happens to be Indian; and may I know whether the Government of India has taken any steps to see that the Indian labour in Ceylon gets proper representation at the I.L.O. Conferences?

Shri Abid Ali: Sir, labour representatives do attend I.L.O. conferences on behalf of Ceylon labourers as well. Formerly the Ceylon Workers' Congress was given representation but this time the All Ceylon Trade Union Congress was given representation. This is a matter, Sir, entirely between the Government of Ceylon and the I.L.O.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether India recognises migrant workers as indigenous workers after a lapse of time?

Shri Abid Ali: No, Sir.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know whether there was any undertaking regarding the treatment of Indian labourers in Ceylon and how far it is implemented?

Shri Abid Ali: There was not any undertaking, Sir.

MEDICAL STORES (GIFTS)

*1087. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free gifts of certain non-consumable medical stores like ambulances, X-ray equipments etc. have been offered to India by certain philanthropic persons abroad; and

(b) if so, whether such free gifts stores are given any customs concessions?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Such gifts are often received by Missions and other Hospitals doing charitable work.

(b) Applications for re-imbusement of expenditure incurred on account of customs duty on such non-consumable medical stores are considered on merits by the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether requests have been made to the Government by those who have sent such non-consumable medical stores to India for the reimbursement of customs duties charged from them?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Hospitals and other institutions who are catering to the needs of the poor, irrespective of caste or creed, apply for it, and they are looked into and on merits they are given.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know, Sir, how these gifts are distributed and which States have been benefited by these gifts?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The gifts are not given through the States; but the gifts are sent directly to the charitable institutions from the donors overseas.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the department concerned of the State is consulted and its advice taken before any private institution is given these gifts?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is no information, Sir.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*1088. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary question to starred question No. 1102 asked on the 23rd June, 1952 regarding International Wheat Agreement and state the difference between the price of wheat purchased under the International Wheat Agreement and that purchased in the open market in the United States, Canada and Australia?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The prices paid in the open market purchases of wheat from Canada and U.S.A. were always higher than those paid under the International Wheat Agreement. They varied from time to time. In the case of Canada they were about \$17 per ton higher, while in the case of U.S.A. they were about \$28 per ton higher than the International Wheat Agreement prices. In Australia we could not make any purchases in the open market as that country had no wheat to sell except under the International Wheat Agreement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the price per ton of wheat according to this International Wheat Agreement?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I cannot give the exact price of the wheat in the public interest but it varies from 1.2 to 1.8 dollars per bushel.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the difference between our internal price and the International Wheat Agreement price?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We cannot compare our grain with that of foreign countries.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, how much wheat is going to be bought from the open market?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Last year we have purchased about 21,74,000 tons.

Shri Dabhi: Next year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Under this International Wheat Agreement, the crop year is taken as the year for all practical purposes. It begins from the first of August and ends with the 31st of July. Last year, that is the year beginning with August 1, 1951 and ending with July 31, 1952, we have purchased 21,74,000 tons outside the Wheat Agreement. Next year, that means from July onwards, i.e., from August this year till July next, we are not purchasing outside this International Wheat Agreement.