

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is difficult to say anything about that.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

*177. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of industrial disputes falling within the Central Government's sphere resulting in work stoppages since the beginning of the current financial year?

(b) How does this figure compare with the figure for the corresponding period of last year?

(c) What has been the total number of man-days lost so far in these industrial disputes this year as compared to last year?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know how long it would take to collect the information?

Shri V. V. Giri: At the most three weeks.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we expect the information before the end of this session?

Shri V. V. Giri: Certainly.

Mr. Speaker: Provided the session does not end before three weeks.

Shri K. K. Basu: Who knows?—it may be extended.

LAND ARMIES

*178. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to discontinue land armies?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Government is aware that two weeks ago there was a press report to the effect that Government is contemplating to discontinue the land army?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid the press report is incorrect.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know how many acres of land have

been newly brought under cultivation by this land army?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This organisation is of recent origin and there has not been sufficient time for it to show a large acreage, but I can give an idea of the things it has done. Land armies have been organised in more than half a dozen States and in some places they have de-silted drains, constructed roads, planted trees, eradicated weeds and done similar work which goes to improve agricultural production.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know the States in which these land armies have been started so far?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are many States, viz. Delhi, Orissa, Assam, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh, Bombay and West Bengal.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know the total number of men in the land armies in all the States just now mentioned?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The total number will come to about 12,000 to 15,000.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know which is the agency that controls this land army?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a constitution framed for the guidance of these land armies. There are various categories of people who are expected to take part in it. It includes officials, non-officials, students of colleges, especially those coming from agricultural colleges, public men and so on. The ranks are divided into two parts: regulars and auxiliaries, and their duties and functions are clearly laid down.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: What is the amount of money so far spent on this land army?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: None at all.

SUGAR POSITION

*179. **Shri S. C. Singhal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the present position of sugar in India?

(b) Is it a fact that most of the sugar factories in U.P. and Bihar have not paid full prices of the sugar-cane they purchased from the cultivators last season?

(c) If so, how much do they owe to the cultivators?

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