

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

sugar available in the country at present is in excess of the internal requirements to the extent of about 3 lakh tons.

(b) Yes.

(c) The arrears of cane prices, on 31st October, 1952, in U.P. were about Rs. 4½ crores and in Bihar nearly Rs. 3 lakhs.

श्री एस० सी० सिवल : इस रुपये को दिलवाने का सरकार ने क्या प्रबन्ध किया है ?

डा० पी० एस० बेसमुख : इस के बारे में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कार्यवाही कर रही है और जहाँ हो सकता है सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट भी उसमें हमदाद दे सकती है।

श्री एस० सी० सिवल : एक्सेस चीनी को निकालने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाया है ?

डा० पी० एस० बेसमुख : एक्सपोर्ट करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

श्री एस० सी० सिवल : जो प्राइसेज देश में हैं, उन प्राइसेज पर क्या एक्सपोर्ट होना मुमकिन है ?

साख तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किडवाई) : बाहर भेजने का कोशिश की जा रही है और कुछ जरूर बाहर जायगी।

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the price of sugar-cane fixed for the current year?

Shri Kidwai: No price has been fixed, because now more sugar is being produced than is consumed. Therefore, if there is competition among the producers the consumer, perhaps, will get it at a cheaper rate.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Sir, I asked whether any price has been fixed of the sugar-cane per maund?

Shri Kidwai: Rs. 1/5/- at the gate and Rs. 1/3/- outside stations.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, why the price of sugar-cane was reduced?

Shri Kidwai: The prices were reduced because they were disproportionately high. When a cultivator grows food-crops like cereals, he gets less. Therefore the cane area was unnecessarily growing. The result was that this year there was so much cane grown that people had to burn it. Therefore State Governments in U.P., particularly, and Bihar, had to persuade the cane-growers to continue crushing as much as possible. Besides, the prices of sugar were so high, that we could not send any sugar outside the country. Therefore, it was thought necessary that the cane prices should be reduced.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Is Government aware that a sharp disparity has arisen due to the reduction in the prices of sugar in comparison with last year's stock lying in the factories? May I know what the Government is doing to mitigate this difficulty?

Shri Kidwai: As I said by reducing the prices it will be possible to export sugar next year. We have already informed the producers that if they want to export sugar from the new produce, and as it will take time for the new produce to come into the market, sugar from the present stock can be released for export on replacement basis.

I hope that next year the prices would be low enough to enable us to export at least two to three lakh tons of sugar. Already we are negotiating with some countries and I hope by the end of this year we would be able to export a large stock.

"GROW MORE FOOD" ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

*182. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Grow More Food Enquiry Committee has been considered by Government;

(b) if so, which of the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted;

(c) the steps so far taken by the Central Government to give effect to the proposals accepted by them; and

(d) whether the various State Governments have taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Committee?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (d). The re-