

by amending the Local Self-Government Acts ?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That would naturally have to be referred to State Governments. I am not responsible as to how State Governments function.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether as a result of this Enquiry Committee, Government have evolved any central plan for local self-governing institutions?

Mr. Speaker: The Committee was for considering financial aspects only, not the general aspects.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether Government have fixed any time-limit as to the State Governments making up their minds as to the recommendations of this Committee.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is very difficult for Government to fix any time-limit, but we remind the State Governments and ask them to let us know what they are doing from time to time.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

*195. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 34th Session of the International Labour Organisations Conference held in Geneva in June 1951, the subject of "Equal Pay for Equal work to be performed by men and women workers" was discussed; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the India Government voted against the introduction of a convention on this subject?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes, the 34th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June 1951 discussed this subject and adopted a Convention and a Recommendation on Equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value.

(b) The principle of equal-remuneration has been incorporated in the directive principle contained in Article 39(d) of the Indian Constitution and accepted by the Central Pay Commission, the Fair Wage Committee and a number of Industrial Tribunals also. But the actual application of the principle would have to be gradual in view of the practical difficulties involved. A machinery must be set up for objective appraisal of job contents without which the principle could not be applied. The 34th Session adopted a Convention as well as a Recommendation on the sub-

ject. The Government of India's delegate abstained from voting on the Convention, but voted in favour of the Recommendation. A statement on the action to be taken on this Convention and Recommendation by the Government of India and its delegation's Report explaining the position, will be placed before the Parliament soon in accordance with Article 19 of the I.L.O. Convention.

Shrimati Jayashri: May I know whether Government has any intention of instituting machinery for fixing the job rates?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that the Government delegate actually adopted the position that women in India should get lesser wages than men?

Shri V. V. Giri: I do not think so.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the reasons that prompted the Indian delegate to vote for the Convention and abstain from the recommendation?

Shri V. V. Giri: A statement will soon be placed on the Table of the House explaining the reason.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether Government is aware that in fixing the minimum wages in the tea planting industry, a difference has been maintained based on the assumed intention of the Government of India to fix different scales of wages for men and women?

Shri V. V. Giri: I am sure that is not the intention of the Government of India. At any rate, the Government of India's decision is to gradually adopt the Convention to see that there shall be no difference.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that the average woman plucker in a tea garden is better than the average man, and in spite of that fact, the men get higher wages for plucking than the women?

Shri V. V. Giri: I will take the information from the hon. Member.

TRAIN RUNNING BETWEEN KAVALI AND MADRAS

*196. **Shri K. S. Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received any representations from public bodies or individuals, requesting for re-starting of the train running between Kaval and Madras on the Southern Railway?

(b) Do Government intend to re-start the train?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) No. Prior to 1st April 1948, there was a passenger train each way between Madras and Kavali. From 1st April, 1948, simultaneously with the extension of the Ongole-Cocanada passenger train to and from Bitragunta, the passenger train running between Madras and Kavali was scheduled to run between Madras and Bitragunta only. The introduction of the daily Janata Express train from 6.11.1951 between Madras and Calcutta necessitated the cancellation of some of the sectional trains on the North East Line of the Southern Railway including the passenger train which was running between Madras and Bitragunta. This was found necessary, as due to paucity of stock and power, it was not possible to introduce the Janata Express without the cancellation of the trains.

Shri Nanadas: Sir, he knows only Telugu, and I will translate his question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may put the question on his behalf.

Shri Nanadas: What are the organisations from which the Government have received representations for re-starting this particular train?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: There are some ten organisations from which representations have been received. These organisations are:

- (1) Mica Worker's Union of Gudur,
- (2) The South India Mica Mine Owners' Association of Gudur,
- (3) The President of the Town Congress Committee, Gudur,
- (4) Madras Mica Association, Gudur,
- (5) B. Ramachandra Reddi, M.P.
- (6) B. Gopala Reddi, President, District Congress Committee,
- (7) B. Sanjeeva Narayan, Member, Railway Local Advisory Committee,
- (8) Prof. P. C. Reddi and others from Nellore,
- (9) Shri K. Krishna Rao, M.L.A. from Nellore, and
- (10) Shri A. Rami Reddi of Nellore.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether a final decision has been taken on the subject, or is it still open for consideration?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes, Sir, A final decision has been taken that owing to the paucity of stock and power, this train cannot be re-started.

FAMINE IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*197. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that famine conditions prevail in the coastal areas of Travancore-Cochin;

(b) if so, the reasons for the famine; and

(c) whether any relief measures have been initiated?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 'Famine Conditions' are not prevailing in the coastal areas of Travancore-Cochin.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. But, I may add, Sir, that although no famine conditions prevail, nor is there any inadequacy of foodgrains in the area, there is considerable distress in a large section of the population where unemployment prevails on a large scale due to a chronic slump in the coir trade. There are about 6 lakhs of people affected, but adequate steps in conveying relief to them have been taken.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, what are the steps taken?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are a pretty large number. For instance, at a meeting held in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the representative of the State Government, it was suggested to give the Travancore-Cochin Government the following grants, on receipt of estimates of the schemes from the State Government:

- (1) Rs. 7 lakhs for mending and maintaining roads.
- (2) Rs. 8-2 lakhs for starting of roads.
- (3) Rs. 11 lakhs from the Road Fund.

There were also various other steps taken.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: According to the admission of the hon. Minister, there is famine or scarcity affecting 8 lakhs of people, and the grant amounts come to about Rs. 20 lakhs. Will such a small sum be enough to mitigate the sufferings of the people?