

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know what decision has been taken on the representations which they have made?

Shri Abid Ali: We have decided not to curtail this concession, for the time being at least.

Shri Dhusiya: What were the new difficulties which the employers had to face in feeding the labour? Since when have they been facing them, and what were the reasons?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know how long have the employers been finding it difficult to provide rations to their labour according to the agreement.

Shri Abid Ali: For two or three years they have been submitting representations.

Shri Sanganna: May I know what steps are taken at the time of recruitment to make the labour know the conditions they are to undergo in the tea gardens?

Shri Abid Ali: All the service conditions are explained to the workers.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to see that the money spent by the labourers for paying more price for the foodgrains is paid by the employers as per their terms of agreement?

Shri Abid Ali: Government does not propose to impose any change to the detriment of labour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is on the assumption that they will be asked to pay more. There is a tripartite conference.

Shri B. S. Murthy: As per the agreement the employer has got to provide the foodgrains at concessional rates. But the labourers have been purchasing foodgrains at the higher prices. May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to see that the difference in price is paid by the employers for the past period?

Shri Abid Ali: No higher prices are being paid by the workers according to our information, Sir.

SURVEY OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

*1179. **Shri Jagan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have appointed a special officer to undertake a special

survey with a view to encourage and promote the organisation of the co-operative societies amongst the Railway workers;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been submitted by the special officer;

(c) whether Government propose to place a copy of the Plan on the Table of the House; and

(d) what steps have so far been taken by the Railway authorities for the implementation of this plan?

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

(a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The officer has submitted a report which is under examination by Government.

Shri Jagan: May I know for what type of co-operative societies the survey was made—multi-purpose, credit societies, consumers or industrial?

Shri Alagesan: The survey has been made by the officer concerned, and he has submitted a detailed report. His recommendations are now under examination by the Government. It was with reference to multi-purpose societies and co-operative wholesale stores, etc.

Shri B. S. Murthy: When was the report submitted and how long do Government propose to take in order to implement the recommendations contained in the report?

Shri Alagesan: The report was submitted some time back. The Government may take some time in arriving at their conclusions.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know when this officer was appointed?

Shri Alagesan: I think in February, 1952.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know when he submitted his report?

Shri Alagesan: In the month of September.

MESSAGE RATE SYSTEM

*1180. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to extend the "Message rate system" to Hyderabad State during the year 1952-53?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadar): Yes; it is proposed to introduce the Message Rate system at Hyderabad sometime in 1953.