

are being collected and a final decision will be taken shortly.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know whether it is a fact that there is the recommendation by the Central Board of Trustees to the Government in this matter?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir. They have recommended that more industries should be included in the scheme.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know whether plantations are included in the recommendation of the Board?

Shri Abid Ali: There was no recommendation with regard to the plantations but the Government are collecting the necessary data and are considering the question of including plantations also in the scheme.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the names of the industries to which this Act is likely to be extended and the number of workers likely to be covered by this extension?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): Of course at this stage we cannot place before the House the list of the industries that are to be included but all the industries employing more than 10,000 people are under consideration and before long we will be able to place before the House the number of industries covered under this Act.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that the Assam Government has asked that they may be permitted to pass a special legislation for Provident Funds with regard to the plantations, whether it has been permitted and, if so, how it will affect the other States where such legislation has not been passed,

Shri Khandubhai Desai: The Assam Government have been permitted by the Central Government to frame their own legislation with regard to the introduction of Provident Funds Scheme in Assam. If other States will come forward, we would have no hesitation in accepting their proposals.

EXPLORATORY TUBE-WELLS

***2429. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the sinking of exploratory tube-wells in the various States; and

(b) what are the prospects of these tube-wells proving successful?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Eleven exploratory holes have been drilled upto the end of March, 1955, in Narbada Basin in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) It is too early to say how far they will be successful.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the amount so far spent on the scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: All this is out of the foreign aid. We have obtained certain machinery and the work is being done departmentally. I could not give the estimate of expenditure incurred so far.

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know the number of exploratory tube-wells sunk in the Madras State?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think work has yet been commenced there.

DINING CARS

***2430. Shri Keshavalengar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal for the running of a dining car on a co-operative basis comprised of the membership from among the services themselves; and

(b) if so, the name of the train in which the experiment is likely to be taken up?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Keshavaiengar: May we know if Government will now consider this proposal on a co-operative basis? Even if it be as an experimental measure, still it will be practising what they preach.

Mr. Speaker: The last part of the question need not be answered.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Government has already tried this step as an experimental measure and Government does not propose to repeat the experiment.

Shri Keshavaiengar: May we know the place and the State where it was tried?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It was tried in Ghaziabad (U.P.): not on a restaurant car but in the railway station, and I may say that the experience of the Railway Ministry was not a very happy one.

DISCRETIONARY GRANT

*2431. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the total amount of grants paid out of the Discretionary Grant during 1954-55;

(b) the corresponding amounts paid in the last three years;

(c) the details of the amounts paid during 1954-55; and

(d) whether there is any surplus amount in hand at the end of 1954-55?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 27.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many applications have been received by the hon. Minister last year which, according to her discretion, deserved help and for which she could not give help due to paucity of funds?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): I may say that no requests that were considered to be worthy of help were refused help.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any other items for help will be included by the hon. Minister next time?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It all depends on the requests that come in. We will consider them all very favourably.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the amount for this year has been increased?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir, by Rs. 2 lakhs.

PROVIDENT FUND FOR COAL MINERS

*2432. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Trustees of the Coal Mines Provident Fund have recommended that the dearness allowance should be treated as wages for the purpose of computing the contribution to the Provident Fund; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when this recommendation was received by the Government?

Shri Abid Ali: Some time in 1953.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: So, do the Government consider that two years is not a sufficient time for arriving at a decision?

Shri Abid Ali: The recommendation was that coal price should be increased to meet the increased provident fund, and therefore there has been some delay.