

तैयार नहीं है क्योंकि कांडला का अभी तक पूरा विकास नहीं हुआ है ? ऐसी हालत में क्या सरकार इस बात का प्रयत्न करेगी कि इस बन्दरगाह का जितनी जल्दी हो सके, विकास हो ?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : जो दूसरी बात आपने कहीं है वह ठीक है । जो पहली बात कही गई है वह बिल्कुल ठीक नहीं है...

एक माननीय सदस्य : कुछ तो ठीक होगी ।

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : बिल्कुल भी ठीक नहीं है । मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि कांडला बन्दरगाह का काफी तेजी से विकास हुआ है और हम इस काम को बहुत तेजी से आगे बढ़ाना भी चाहते हैं ।

PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT

***591. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1504 on the 6th September, 1955 and state:

(a) when Government propose to bring in a comprehensive Bill amending Payment of Wages Act, 1936; and

(b) the reasons for the delay so far?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Necessary steps to amend the Payment of Wages Act, are being taken and the Bill containing the first batch of amendments is expected to be brought before the House shortly.

(b) Consultation with various interests concerned takes time.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know how many workers are covered at present under the Payment of Wages Act and how many will be covered by the amending Bill?

Shri Abid Ali: I can give the industries, but so far as the numbers of workers are concerned it will not be possible for me to give now. If notice is given I shall provide the information.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if this Act will be extended to the transport workers, because in many places they are not covered under the Payment of Wages Act?

Shri Abid Ali: I think it will apply to transport workers also.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What will be the wage-limit up to which this Bill will be made applicable or enforced?

Shri Abid Ali: Rs. 500. Presently it is applicable to workers drawing up to Rs. 200. The amendment will be up to Rs. 500.

Shri Gidwani: May I know the nature of the amendments which Government propose to make?

Shri Abid Ali: It is proposed to amend the Act so that it may be applicable to certain contract workers and the application of the Act may be made to construction industry, also power and irrigation and navigation system, and to provide for appeal by workers where the claim is rejected in full or in part. These are some of the important items.

EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

***592. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers benefited and the amount disbursed out of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme during 1955;

(b) the number of subscribers employed in unexempted factories on the 1st January, 1956; and

(c) the total provident fund contributions collected till 1st January, 1956?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) (i) 15.68 lakhs workers.

(ii) Rs. 45.03 lakhs.

(b) 5.38 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 55.40 crores.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Could I know the number of workers that came in to take the benefit of this fund during 1955?

Shri Abid Ali: The total number of members who have so far joined, in the exempted factories, is 9.12 lakhs

and in the unexempted factories 5.38 lakhs, that is a total of 14.50 lakhs. The number of members who joined in 1954-55 is 0.39 lakhs.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the total amount of the fund today?

Shri Abid Ali: So far we have received about Rs. 55.40 crores out of which about Rs. 3 crores have been refunded.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it contemplated to bring in more workers in the other factories that are still excluded from the operation of this Act, in the next year?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir, we propose to include between 14 and 15 lakhs more workers.

Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah: May I know what employees are benefiting by this provident fund? For instance, are employees in hills and backward areas also proposed to be given the provident fund, and people like *Gram Sevikas* and teachers?

Shri Abid Ali: At present the Act is applicable to six industries, and it is proposed to include other industries, about fourteen or fifteen. *Gram Sevikas* cannot be covered by this.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether sugar factory labourers are also included in the scheme and, if so, what amount has been collected?

Shri Abid Ali: Sugar factories are not included, because they are seasonal factories. But we propose to include them also very shortly.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: About 532 factories employing 9.12 lakhs of workers are stated to be exempted from the operation of this Employees Provident Fund Scheme. May I know whether the provisions which they are now enjoying are better than those under the Employees Provident Fund Act?

Shri Abid Ali: I may explain that. By exemption it does not mean that the Act is not applicable to them. The provident fund is directly collected by the employers and deposited in securities under the directions of the Government. They are exempted only

as regards direct supervision by the Fund authorities. Wherever the workers and employers, both combined, make an application and if our officers are satisfied that the workers will get a fair deal, then only the factories are exempted, not otherwise.

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

***593. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2406 on the 30th September, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the Executive Committee of the Central Council of Local Self-Government has reviewed the progress made in regard to the implementation of the resolutions of the Central Council; and

(b) if so, how many States have implemented the resolutions?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the resolutions passed by the Central Council requiring action on the part of the State Governments and the action so far taken by the State Governments thereon, is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 53.]

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether special allotments by the Central Government for the establishment of panchayats in backward and tribal areas have been made, and if so, what is the total amount?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I require notice for the question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether all the State Governments have been represented on the Executive Committee?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Not all the State Governments, but only a few because it is an Executive Committee. The Council consists of members from all the various Governments.