

Shri Abid Ali: Firstly this may be put before the Indian Labour Conference, and if it is considered necessary a separate conference may be invited.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the association of workers in the management will be at the level of Board of Directors or Joint Council which is envisaged in the Second Plan?

Shri Abid Ali: All these details are under consideration.

Shri Kamath: Does the hon. Minister—I mean the senior Minister, who has emphatically expressed himself in favour of this principle during his tenure of office, and I am sure he will do so hereafter as well—propose to make a firm recommendation to this effect, with regard to the association of workers in the management, before he quits his high office?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): The committee which has gone to foreign countries will be submitting its report and on that report the Government will take a decision.

Rubber Production

*111. **Shri Matthen:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industries be pleased to state:

(a) what orders have been passed and what steps are being taken by Government on the proposal made by the Plantation Inquiry Commission for additional production of natural rubber by 20,000 tons to be attained in 1965, above the current annual production of 24,000 tons;

(b) what are the recommendations of the Rubber Board to accelerate the pace of expansion and the advance during the next 10 years;

(c) whether there is any conflict between the recommendations of the Plantation Inquiry Commission and those of the Rubber Board, and if so, what are the final orders by the Government;

(d) whether there is any scheme for granting subsidies or loans to help new rubber plantings in the Private Sector, and if so, what are its details; and

(e) whether any loan or subsidy has already been given and if so, how much and to how many persons?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The Report of the Plantation Inquiry Commission on Rubber Industry is under consideration of Government.

(b) The Rubber Board had recommended extension of rubber cultivation over an area of one lakh acres over a period of 10 years and the grant to those who undertake new cultivation of loans at the rate of Rs. 750/- per acre, repayable in 15 equal half yearly instalments, after the end of the 7th year.

(c) There is no real conflict.

As against a lakh of acres extension in 10 years time the Plantation Inquiry Commission have suggested that immediately an extension of 50,000 acres should be taken in hand over a period of 5 years and some system of cooperative financing should be encouraged. This proposal is under examination of Government in consultation with the Rubber Board.

(d) Various proposals in this behalf are under consideration.

(e) No, Sir.

Shri Matthen: This proposal had been there for some time before the Rubber Board. In view of the urgent need for developing rubber production in India as we are importing it, may I know what is the delay in passing final orders?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is actually no delay. The latest report of the Rubber Board has been received recently and for 1957-58 and onwards we have made a provision of over Rs. 2 crores for the purpose.

Shri Matthen: When can we expect final orders to be passed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I think it should be done very soon.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Firm targets have not been fixed as per the Second Plan for plantation industry. May I enquire when the Government would be in a position to fix targets for that industry?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As far as rubber is concerned, targets have more or less been arrived at. We have arrived at a target for production of 29,100 tons of natural rubber by 1960.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know whether the scheme for expansion of rubber cultivation will be affected in any way by the proposal of Government to produce synthetic rubber, and if so to what extent?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I have often said in this House, there is no conflict between synthetic rubber and natural rubber. Natural rubber, as the hon. Members are aware, takes a very long time to grow and requires a particular type of soil. The requirements of the country by 1965 of natural rubber plus synthetic rubber are going to be about 55,000 tons. The natural rubber yield will not be more than 35,000 tons and, therefore, the gap of 20,000 tons has to be covered by production of synthetic rubber. Hence, the proposal of manufacturing synthetic rubber has been contemplated by the Government.

Shri Matthen: Just a couple of months ago, I understood from the Ministry of Industries and Commerce that a proposal has been finalised for starting a company by the Government, the Government having 51 per cent. of the shares, for planting rubber in about 20,000 acres of land. I heard it has been finalised. Has it been started or has the Kerala Government been asked to take the initiative in the matter?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This proposal is under very active considera-

tion, and the Kerala Government have intimated to us their agreement for starting such a corporation.

Suicide at the Jabalpur Training Centre

*112. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer to Short Notice Question No. 10, on the 18th December, 1956, regarding suicide of an Officer at the Jabalpur Training Centre and state:

(a) whether the enquiry in the matter has been concluded;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) No evidence has been discovered or adduced to support the main allegations made by the late Shri Matade that he was harassed by the Divisional Engineer Telegraphs, Training Centre.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Kamath: May I know who conducted this enquiry and whether all the persons mentioned by the officer who committed suicide, mentioned by him in his last statement,— were summoned to give evidence before the officer who held the enquiry?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The P.M.G., Nagpur, was an independent officer conducting the enquiry, because he has the jurisdiction which is under the Additional Chief Engineer, Telegraphs. He took all possible evidence that was available.

Shri Kamath: Is the Minister in a position to lay a copy of the report of the enquiry on the Table, or at least a resume, a summary, of that report on the Table of the House?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would have no objection. I would lay a brief summary of the report on the Table.