

the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of representation of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in services and the steps taken are set out in the Report for the year 1951-52 issued by that Ministry, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

**RETRENCHMENT OF TEA GARDEN WORKERS
IN ASSAM**

*835. **Shri Sarmah:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any decisions were arrived at in the Conference between the employers and labour of Tea Industry in Assam and the Central and State Ministers for Labour held recently at Shillong; if so, what are those and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

(b) Did the Minister visit any tea garden during his last visit to Assam?

(c) How many tea garden labourers were thrown out of employment due to closure of Tea Estates till the end of February, 1953, how many of these have been provided with alternative employment?

(d) Is it a fact that labourers are still being recruited from outside the State for work in tea gardens in Assam by the Tea District Labour Association?

(e) If so, do Government propose to take steps to stop fresh recruitment?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) There was general agreement at the Conference on the principle of conversion of food concessions into cash payments. Though no agreement could be reached on the exact quantum of compensation to be paid in lieu of the concessions, the differences between industry and labour were considerably narrowed down as a result of the discussions.

(b) Yes, three gardens.

(c) According to information received upto 25-2-53, 50,024 workers were rendered unemployed due to closure of tea gardens in Assam, of whom 1,284 were provided with alternative employment upto that date. Seven gardens had also re-opened by that date.

(d) Yes, under the provisions of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932.

(e) The matter is under consideration.

**RAILWAY COLLISION AVERTED NEAR
MATHURA**

568. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a

Railway Collision of Grand Trunk Express and a goods train was averted on the 2nd November, 1952 between Mathura and Agra?

(b) If so, what action was taken against those who were responsible for giving a wrong line clear?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) On 2nd November, 1952, the Down Grand Trunk Express was received at Runkuta station on the same line on which an Up Empty Petrol Tank Special was already standing, but it stopped short of the engine of the latter train by 115 yards.

(b) Suitable disciplinary action is being taken against the staff for their share of responsibility for the reception of the Express on a wrong line.

No wrong 'line clear' was, however, involved in this case, as stated in the question.

Minor Irrigation Works in Bombay

569. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of Bombay have asked for any financial assistance from the Government of India for the execution of minor irrigation works during the year 1953?

(b) If so, what amount is sanctioned as a loan and what amount as a grant?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir. A loan of Rs. 80 lakhs and a grant of Rs. 13.13 lakhs.

(b) The loan has not been agreed to in view of the fact that very recently the Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 127.62 lakhs for a special programme of minor irrigation works in the scarcity affected areas of the State. A grant of Rs. 6.36 lakhs has been agreed to so far.

AREAS OF STATUTORY RATIONING

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

(a) the names of the areas in different States where statutory rationing still exists;

(b) the population of each of these areas;

(c) the names of the rationed food grains in each of these areas;