

into these allegations and that the report of this Committee is likely to be considered by the shareholders at the adjourned general meeting of the company to be held on the 10th September, 1962. In view of the developments, Government do not propose to take any other action at present.

### Coffee Plantations

**2231. Shri Rameshwar Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a new disease affecting coffee plantations which is reducing its production;

(b) whether the new disease can be partly responsible for this shortfall in production;

(c) how this shortfall will affect our export;

(d) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to combat the new disease; and

(e) whether the measures suggested by a Special Expert Committee in their report have been fully implemented and, if not, to what extent they have been implemented?

**The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mannubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). It has not yet been possible to establish either that the whole complex of symptoms observed in recent years in different coffee estates are due to a new disease or that the decrease in crop yields in certain years could be ascribed even partly to the prevalence of such a disease and not due to cyclical variation in crop yield which are known to occur in coffee production.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) and (b) above.

(d) and (e). Investigations conducted by the Research Department of the Coffee Board since 1959 have been intensified. The effects of the remedial measures taken on the basis

of the findings of such investigations are being watched. The other aspects of the problem are also being investigated in the Agronomy, Botany, Chemistry, Mycology and Entomology Divisions of the Research Department with the guidance and assistance of eminent scientists and other research institutions in the country. All possible steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Special Expert Committee.

### Shop Assistants in Tripura

**2232. Shri Biren Dutta:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the number of shop assistants in Tripura;

(b) for how many hours they work;

(c) whether there is any Act guaranteeing their security of services;

(d) if not, whether Government propose to adopt any law in this respect; and

(e) whether any minimum wages are proposed to be fixed for them?

**The Minister of Labour in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri Hathi):** (a) 1135 during 1961 within Agartala Municipality, where the Act is in force.

(b) Not more than 10 hours a day subject to a maximum of 56 hours in a week in accordance with the provisions of the Bengal Shops and Establishments Act, 1940 extended to Tripura in 1953.

(c) and (d). There is no special law regarding the security of service of Shop Assistants, but if they are discharged or dismissed and an industrial dispute is raised as a consequence it can be dealt with under the Industrial Disputes Act.

(e) The employment in shops has not been included in the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act 1948, and the question of fixation of minimum wages of the shop assistants by the Tripura Administration does not arise.