

tested there and was it after that that the decision was announced?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is only after proper testing, Sir, that the decision is arrived at.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the same variety of salt was not being used even before by the people?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Before means when?

Mr. Speaker: Before what date?

Shri Velayudhan: The same quality of salt used to be sent out even in the previous years.

Shri K. C. Reddy: In the previous years? If the hon. Member is referring to 1949 or 1950, perhaps it was. But we are now gradually stepping up the quality of salt. For 1952 we prescribed originally 94 per cent. sodium chloride content, but later we reduced it to 93 per cent. because of several representations from the salt manufacturers.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether there is any prescribed quality now decided upon by the Government regarding the salt?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir. I have already answered that question. For the year 1952 the sodium chloride content of salt should be 93 per cent.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HATTI GOLD MINES STRIKE

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to settle the dispute

between labourers and the authorities of Hatti Gold Mines in Raichur district, Hyderabad State;

(b) whether the strike is by individual workers or by any organised labour Union; and

(c) what are the grounds for strike and how far they have been tackled?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes; the officers of the Conciliation Machinery of the Central Government stationed at Nagpur and Hyderabad have tried to bring about a settlement through conciliation.

(b) It appears that no strike has been called, but that the Hyderabad Gold Mines Labour Union has been picketing the mines and thereby preventing workers from entering the mines. It is understood that the employers declared a lockout from the 15th October 1952, but that, according to the latest information available, underground workers restarted work unconditionally on the 11th November 1952 and mill and surface workers were expected to restart work on the 13th November 1952.

(c) A statement of the demands put forward by the Union is placed on the Table. On conciliation being taken up, there was a measure of agreement on some of the points, while the Union agreed not to press certain other demands at least for the time being. The Statement also indicates which demands were not pressed or on which there was agreement. There was no agreement on the remaining demands. Government will consider what further action, if any, should be taken.

STATEMENT

Demands put forward by the Hyderabad Gold Mines Labour Union and demands on which there was either agreement or which were given up by the Union.

(1) Temporary huts should be constructed in order to have accommodation for all houseless labourers and thus relieving the distress of the house problems of the labourers at present.

(2) Dearness Allowance should be paid to all employees as per the cost of living index reading.

(3) Electric (street lights and house lights) lights should be given in the labour colony; in case it is not possi-

The Union agreed to await the decision of the Company.

The Union agreed not to press this demand till they were able to present the case with more convincing facts and figures.

The Union was more or less satisfied regarding installation of more street lights.

ble two bottles of kerosine oil should be issued free of cost to every employee per month.

(4) Firewood and charcoal should be supplied to the workers at a concession rate of 50 per cent.

(5) The nominal house rent now being collected from the labourers, should be dispensed with.

(6) All the grades of the maistries head-maistries, banksmen, machine maistries in the underground department, and similar grades in other departments should be upgraded at least by a minimum of As. -/12/-

(7) All the monthly paid staff will have to be provided with furniture, i.e., one chair, one table and one cot at least.

(8) The present scheme of Provident Fund is not compulsory and dearness allowance should be treated as an addition to the basic wages or salary for the purposes of calculating the contribution towards the Provident Fund by the employer.

(9) The present system of contribution towards Provident Fund by workers should be raised to the level of 10 per cent. and the discrimination should be dropped.

(10) In case of Medical disability and retrenchment every employee should be paid one month basic salary or wages for the service of every one year rendered by the employee in the Company in addition to other legitimate termination salaries, compensation etc.

(11) In view of the increased population in the camp a Maternity Ward and a Lady Doctor should be arranged for better maternity service and welfare.

(12)(i) All the underground employees should get a cloth allowance as well as in other departments where the workers get their clothes soiled.

(ii) Uniforms should be supplied to Watch and Ward Department employees.

(13) In view of serious accidents taking place, an Ambulance car is necessary to transport such persons to Raichur or Hyderabad for treatment.

(14) The Medical attendance should not come in the way of annual increment and Privilege Leave.

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The Union agreed not to press for compulsory provident fund.

The Union agreed to withdraw temporarily the demand relating to medical disability grant.

The demand for a maternity ward was conceded. Union was convinced that there was no immediate need to appoint a Lady Doctor.

Demand not pressed.

(15) Accident (7 days) on 8th day if the employee was not cured and attended the hospital for treatment he must be paid 3/4 pay from the date of his admission in the hospital.

(16) There should not be any discrimination as regards wages, accommodation and other facilities, between the workers of the same trade and category.

As good as withdrawn.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I ask, Sir, how many workers have been arrested by the State police and how many of them have been sentenced to imprisonment due to illegal strike or any other unlawful activity?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have not got the actual number but we know that some workers have been sentenced.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: Is the number more than 100, or below?

Shri V. V. Giri: I cannot say what the number is. It may be 100 or below.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know whether the Central Labour Ministry has sent or appointed any officer to go thoroughly into the matter and report to the Government; if not, does the Ministry intend to do so in the near future?

Shri V. V. Giri: The moment the dispute arose, the Conciliation Officer wanted to intervene, but the president of the union was not anxious for the intervention. Later on, the Conciliation Officer did intervene, as a result of which certain demands were conceded, certain demands were not pressed and certain demands still remain.

Shri Sivamurthi Swami: May I know Sir, if it is a fact that in spite of repeated representations to the Ministry, not a single grievance of the labourers has been considered by the agencies of the Mines, even the supply of water, apart from housing and other facilities?

Shri V. V. Giri: Not this Ministry, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the lock-out was responsible for aggravating the situation?

Shri V. V. Giri: May have been so, but most probably the lock-out resulted on account of the workers.

ENCROACHMENTS IN TRIPURA BY PAKISTANS

The management agreed to consider individual cases if brought to notice.

Shri Gidwani: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistanis have made encroachments on the Indian territory in Tripura;

(b) whether Pakistanis have shifted Indo-Pakistan boundary pillars from their original sites to places inside Tripura occupying a large area of Tripura; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, what action has Government of India taken in the matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Government have received intimation from the Chief Commissioner, Tripura, that on or about the 10th November the Pakistan Passport Police Check staff encroached a little over 100 yards on our territory in Kailashahr in spite of the objection of the Divisional Office at Kailashahr. Objection was immediately lodged with the East Bengal Government and they were asked to remove their Check post.

(b) and (c). Owing to the boundary not being properly demarcated, certain unauthorised pillars were apparently erected. In May 1949 the Tripura and East Bengal Governments agreed that such pillars should be removed. Early in November this year, at a Chief Secretaries Conference held at Shillong, it was noted with satisfaction that the Directors of Land Records of the East Bengal and Tripura Governments had met and had agreed to start the work of demarcating the boundary between Tripura and East Bengal on the 8th December 1952. It was agreed that unauthorised pillars should be removed under the joint supervision of the two Directors.

No other information is available at present.