

LABOUR IN TEA GARDENS AND PLANTATIONS

138. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tea gardens and plantations in India (State-wise);

(b) the total number of men, women and children employed in them;

(c) the minimum wage scales and dearness rates of allowance fixed by Government for men, women and children and rates obtaining before fixation;

(d) the total number of gardens closed and number of workers thrown out of jobs, fully or partially, separately from January, 1952 upto 31st January, 1953, State-wise; and

(e) the relief measures, if any, adopted by Government and the number of workers affected by these measures, State-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Information regarding the total number of tea plantations in various States is not readily available. However, the number of tea plantations which come within the scope of the Plantations Labour Act in the main tea growing States is as under:—

Assam	591
West Bengal	278
Madras	138
Travancore-Cochin	77
Tripura	49
Punjab	37
Uttar Pradesh	18
Mysore	16
Bihar	7

(b) Latest employment figures available relate to the year 1949. The number of workers in tea plantations in India during the year 1949 was 9,85,616. The break-up of those figures under men, women and children is not available except in case of Assam which had 215,412 men, 174,694 women and 59,929 children employed in tea gardens in 1949.

(c) A statement showing rates of minimum wages, etc., fixed for plantation workers is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 37] Information regarding the rates which obtained before fixation of minimum wages is being collected.

(d) and (e). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply to starred question No. 40 on the 14th February 1953, which furnished particulars of tea gardens closed in certain States during the last six months and the measures adopted by Government to provide relief to workers affected as a result of the closure of tea gardens. Further information is being collected.

PATWARIS, PATELS ETC.

139. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the scales of pay and dearness allowance rates of Patwaris, Patels, Adhikaris and Pravartiars (village officials who maintain land records, etc. irrespective of the name by which they are known) in Centrally Administered Areas;

(b) whether Government are aware that Patwaris and Patels are seriously agitated over their meagre earnings and have been demanding revision of their salaries and dearness allowance scales;

(c) how many times notices of strike were given or strikes undertaken by this category of village officials and what were their demands; and

(d) whether Government contemplate any measures to undertake an enquiry into the working conditions and earnings of these village officials?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The question will be considered, in consultation with the Administrations concerned, after information has been collected.

EMPLOYEES OF ANCHAL AND TELEPHONE DEPARTMENTS OF TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

140. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether employees in the Posts and Telegraphs Department who were formerly employees of the Anchal and Telephone Departments of the Travancore-Cochin Government are paid salaries at the Central Scale from the date of the integration of these Departments and if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The employees of the ex-Anchal of the Travancore-Cochin Government were directly taken over by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department with effect from the 1st April, 1951, while those