

Shri Nanadas: May I know what steps have been taken by the Government to attract the employment seekers to the Employment Exchanges?

Shri V. V. Giri: Large numbers are coming and we are not able to place them.

VALIVADE FLAG STATION

***54. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1387 on the 24th December, 1953, regarding conversion of the present flag station of Valivade into a full-fledged station, and state whether Government have considered the matter and come to any decision?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The Southern Railway have been instructed to refer the matter to their Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee for consideration and take action in the light of the recommendations made by that Committee.

Shri Gidwani: Is the conversion of a railway station from a flag station to an ordinary station within the powers of the Railway Users' Committee to recommend?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The views of the Consultative Committee are taken to ascertain whether the station should be turned into a full-fledged station or not.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know when these Consumers' societies were formed.....

Mr. Speaker: There are no Consumers' societies here.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I mean Users' Committee. Do they ever visit any flag stations?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Flag stations are situated within the areas for which the Consultative Committees are appointed and as such they are supposed to know all about flag stations.

Vanamahotsava

***55. Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trees planted in India since last "Vanamahotsava" was inaugurated, state-wise;

(b) the number of survivals; and

(c) the increase in the forest area of the country as a result of "Vanamahotsava"?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The number of trees planted during the years 1950 and 1951 is 44.3 and 34.8 millions respectively. A statement showing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 12.]

(b) The number of survivals of trees planted during 1950 and 1951 is 17 and 17.7 millions respectively. Information regarding plantation and survival of trees during 1952 and 1953, is still being collected.

(c) *Vanamahotsava* is not intended to take the place of the activities of the Forest Departments of the State Governments.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the steps taken to integrate the tree-plantation during *vanamahotsava* with the forest policy of the Government, of increasing the area under forests, keeping in view the proper land policy, nature of the terrain and the national needs?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As I said in reply to part (c) of the question, the two things are entirely different. *Vanamahotsava* is intended for the trees which are intended more for decoration, shade, etc. Forest policy and afforestation are different things. We have got schemes; the State Governments have schemes. All the considerations which my hon. friend has put forward are before them.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Is it a fact that tree-planting during the *Vanamahotsava* programme is at present not organised on a systematic basis, and

that there is need for reorganising it to secure maximum results?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know what would be the most systematic basis. We try our best and we think we are improving from year to year. I think the present organisation is not in any way out of date.

Shri Syed Ahmed: What was the cost of this tree-planting?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The cost to the Central Government for all the four years did not exceed Rs. 48,000. Half of this amount was spent on trophies to foster the spirit of tree-planting.

Shri S. N. Das: How many of these trees died as orphans and how many died a natural death?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No separate census is kept of these.

Shri G. S. Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is indiscriminate tree-cutting on a large scale in various parts of India, and particularly in Rajasthan?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Many articles have come to my notice about this, and I have taken steps to draw the attention of the State Governments to this fact. I think in a recent conference this was discussed. We are trying to focuss their attention on this.

LABOUR DISPUTES

*56. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disputes between Labour and Industry sent to conciliation officers during the period from September to December 1953 as far as the Central Government is concerned;

(b) the number of such disputes settled by the conciliation officers; and

(c) the number referred to the Tribunals?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). Complete

information is not available and is being collected. It will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Three.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the number of cases referred to Tribunals at the instance of industry?

Shri V. V. Giri: Notice.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if any instance has come to the notice of the Government where the Conciliation Officer, instead of helping in resolving disputes, actually advised the management to take a rigid attitude towards workers' demands?

Shri V. V. Giri: It has not come to my knowledge.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know the number of disputes which resulted in strikes in 1953?

Shri V. V. Giri: Notice.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether Government are contemplating to abolish the posts of Conciliation Officers?

Shri V. V. Giri: No.

AIR PORTS

*57. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the kinds of fire fighting engines used in airports in India;

(b) which of them are indigenous and which are from abroad;

(c) how many foreign machines have been purchased in recent times, specifying the cost and capacity; and

(d) how they compare with the indigenous ones?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Aircraft Crash Fire Tenders manufactured by Messrs. Pyrene Co., Ltd., United Kingdom, Foamite Ltd., United Kingdom and by Westing-house, United States of America are used in airports in India.

(b) They are all imported from abroad.