

National Productivity Council

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 *113. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Damani:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Productivity Council has been fully constituted and suitably manned; and

(b) whether the Council has drawn up any programme of its work especially with regard to the establishment of local, regional and industry-wise Productivity Councils?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) The National Productivity Council, which was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, on the 12th February 1958, has now on it representatives of various Central Government Ministries, All India Organisations of employers and labour, and certain other institutions. The nominations of the representatives of Local Productivity Councils, technicians and certain other interests, aggregating to 16 out of the total membership of the Council (60), will be finalised shortly. Recruitment of administrative staff of the Council, including productivity specialists, will be completed during the month of August, 1958.

(b) Yes, Sir. A copy of the tentative programme of work is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 113].

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that some of the regional councils have been started. May I know what are the other places where regional councils will be started?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Local productivity councils have started at Bangalore, Coimbatore, Madras and Bombay.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether this organisation will act as an autonomous body, or will be a part of the department of Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It will be more or less an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the productivity councils will be set up industry-wise or region-wise?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The present approach is that it will be local—town or city-wise. It may be later on it may have to develop industry-wise also.

Shri Damani: May I know how many meetings have been held of this Council and what important decisions have been taken?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Several decisions have been taken, and I have also placed before the House the decisions taken at several meetings of the Council and its governing body.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any technicians are likely to be sent abroad, and if so to what places?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There are such programmes of about 15 teams to be sent to different countries. The programme is being finalised.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether this Council has formulated any programme as to the particular industries it should concentrate on?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I said, if the hon. Member looks into the statement, he will find that the entire details of the programme have been given. Just now we are concentrating on developing productivity consciousness in local areas. Later on it might emerge that we will try it industry-wise also.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Minister stated the local productivity councils have been established in Madras, Coimbatore, Bombay and other places, and in the statement I find that very soon a monthly journal called *Productivity Review* will be published. May I know whether it will be published only in English or Hindi, or other regional languages also?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the present only in English, but later on the idea is to translate it into regional languages also.

Shri Ranga: What is meant by the statement made by the hon. Minister that it would be more or less autonomous? Who appoints the personnel of these councils at the Centre and also at the State levels? Is it the Government?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is by a regular election. If the hon. Member is interested he may look into the constitution of the National Productivity Council which is available in the Parliament Library. If he looks into it, he will find that labour and employers are equally represented. About one-fourth of the seats are reserved for Government nominations, and the rest are the technicians to be elected by the joint body of the three categories.

Shri Dasappa: What are the financial commitments of the Government and to what extent are the various industries going to share in the cost of this Council?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The provision for the current year is about Rs. 10 lakhs, and there is, for the foreign exchange component of it, a grant coming from the T.C.M. and various international organisations.

Shri Dasappa: I want to know to what extent the industries are going to contribute to the expenditure?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Membership fee is the only thing for the present. For the L.P.C. every industry will have to pay a certain quota, a certain subscription, but later on when the productivity movement gathers momentum, it is our idea also to collect subscriptions, donations and various types of contribution by industries.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: At this rate we can cover very few questions.

Employees' Provident Fund Contribution

*115. { **Shri Ram Krishan:**
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1432 on the 3rd April, 1958 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been arrived at regarding the enhancement of the rate of contribution to Employees' Provident Fund from 6½ to 8½ per cent; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Ram Krishan: In view of the commitment of the Government, may I know by what time a final decision will be taken in this matter?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is difficult to state categorically the time. The question is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Prabhat Kar: What are the difficulties in coming to a decision to implement this particular scheme?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): In principle the decision has been taken as we have communicated the fact to the House. As to when actually this can be brought into operation, well that is a matter which is being considered. It depends upon conditions, the conditions in industry at the moment, for example. We have made up our mind, we will certainly introduce this change, but for the time being it cannot be done because as I said of the prevailing conditions.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know, Sir.....