

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.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should allow me to call out the name or identify the Member before he begins to speak. Shri Banerjee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the employers' associations are not agreeing to this proposal, and if so the steps taken by the Government to persuade them peacefully but firmly? My information is that the employers are not agreeing to this proposal and this is the main reason why Government is feeling shy.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may put his question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is whether the employers are not agreeing to this proposal, and if so the steps taken by Government to persuade them peacefully but firmly.

Shri Nanda: It is true that they are reluctant, but it is not our intention to try to persuade them at this moment.

Shri Anthony Pillai: Is it not a fact that the Union Government consulted the State Labour Ministers at the last conference at Naini Tal and the State Labour Ministers unanimously agreed to this proposal? If there is such unanimity, what is the difficulty in implementing this proposal?

Shri Nanda: I have already said the principle has been accepted, but the question is what is the most opportune time to apply it? In our assessment this is not the time, this is not the proper moment.

Shri Tangamani: After the State Labour Ministers' Conference, when the decision of that conference was placed before the 16th Indian Labour Conference, it was agreed by the representatives of Government and also labour that this 8-1/3 per cent. should be implemented.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He should come to the question.

Shri Tangamani: I am coming to the question. At that time the employers'

representatives wanted time. May I know whether the time that the employers' representatives wanted has elapsed, and if not, how long they propose to take?

Shri Nanda: Yes, they wanted an extended time; that was also agreed to. We are soon going to have a conference with them to consider this matter. But, for the moment, as I said, there is no intention to apply it forthwith.

Indian Nationals in China

*116. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large amounts are due to the Indian nationals who were in the employment of the Shanghai Municipal Police and other authorities in China;

(b) whether they have approached the Government of India for use of diplomatic channel to help them for the realisation of their dues; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken in this connection?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Large amounts are due to Indian nationals who were in the employment of Shanghai Municipal Council (which included Municipal Police) only and in no other place in China.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government of India have been making representations to the People's Republic of China and the matter is still under consideration by them.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether there is any possibility of an early settlement of the matter?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The matter is under consideration.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We do not know. How can we?