

advanced as loans by the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation;

(b) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Bengal Textile Mills Ltd. have since stopped operation and the Mills are closed; and

(c) whether due legal steps have been taken for the recovery of the loan so that this huge amount may not have to be written off as bad debts?

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes. Out of a sum of Rs. 9,34,335.84 advanced to the Company, an amount of Rs. 1,39,889.30 as instalments of principal and of Rs. 1,04,131.20 as interest were in arrears as on 31st December, 1965.

(b) Yes. The mills were closed in October, 1965.

(c) Yes. Steps to be taken to recover the amount are under consideration.

Wage Rise for Plantation Labour in Kerala

761. Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade union representing the plantation labour in Kerala State has made any representations regarding many of its demands about the wage increase and payment of bonus; and

(b) the steps taken to meet the demands of plantation workers in Kerala State?

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) At the instance of the State Labour Department negotiations for reaching a settlement on the demands are now in progress between the parties concerned.

Wage Rise for Textile Workers in Kerala

762. Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade unions representing the textile workers of Kerala have made representations about their demands for wage rise and payment of bonus; and

(b) if so, the action being taken to meet the same?

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Information has been called for from the Government of Kerala. It will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

Supply of Kerosene Oil in Kerala

763. Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the supply of kerosene oil to the students at the time of examinations in Kerala State; and

(b) if so, the proposed increased supply?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) The State Government has a proposal to supply to students residing in non-electrified houses an additional quantity of kerosene during the time of examination in March-April.

(b) The proposed increase is one litre per student.