

बहां के मुख्य मंत्री जी ने भी उनके साथ कोई समझौता किया था जिस की बजह से स्ट्राइक काल आक हुई थी ? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि हरवंस सिंह के मामले के साथ अपने मामले को जोड़ कर बहां के इंजीनियर अपनी मांगों को आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं ? उस समय जी आशवासन उनको दिये गयेये उनके कार्यान्वयन में आपको क्यों दिक्कत है ?

DR. K. L. RAO: If the demands are other than those connected with Mr. Harbans Singh, it will be possible to arrive at some settlement. But if the question is linked up with Mr. Harbans Singh, of course, it will not be possible for us to do anything in the matter.

SHRI BISHWANATH ROY: In view of the situation created by the strike, may I know whether any alternative arrangement is not possible at present so that the situation can be eased?

DR. K. L. RAO: Of course, it will be possible always to make alternative arrangements. We have already thought of it, and it is not a very difficult thing. Only there may be some transitional difficulty when people would have to use some candle-lights for a few days. But I do not think that that situation will arise, and it is not if a certain set of persons is indispensable; the country is much too big for that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Over-aged Bushes in North Bengal Tea

*426. SHRI RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50 per cent of the bushes in the North Bengal tea gardens are over-aged; and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by the Tea Board to facilitate early replantation in such tea gardens?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) About 48 per cent of the bushes in North Bengal Tea Gardens are estimated to be over fifty years old.

(b) Financial assistance in the form of loan and subsidy is given to the tea plantation industry through the Tea Board's schemes viz. Plantation Finance Scheme and Replanting Subsidy Scheme respectively for replantation of old uneconomic tea areas. The quantum of loan has been increased from Rs. 7400 per hectare to Rs. 11250 in plains and from Rs. 9900 per hectare to Rs. 13750 in hills and the quantum of subsidy has been increased from Rs. 3500 per hectare to Rs. 4000 in plains and from Rs. 4500 per hectare to Rs. 5000 in hills with effect from 1-1-72 to make the scheme more attractive. In consideration of loss in crop sustained in uprooting and replanting, replacement planting in general has been brought within the purview of the Replanting Subsidy Scheme. Further, uneconomic tea areas have been made eligible for the subsidy irrespective of the age of the bushes.

Efforts made by S. T. C. for the Im- port of Nylon Yarn

*427. SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to the news-item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated the 19th July, 1973 to the effect that efforts made by the State Trading Corporation to arrange the import of 3,000 tonnes of nylon yarn have not met with desired result; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken to meet the situation?