

the information from all the States except Andaman and Nicobar Administration. They have supplied the information of insurance charge, i.e., what is the premium charge. They have not given the sum insured, they have not given the claims, they have not given the number of farmers who are insured. How am I supposed to answer this? The only thing which is supplied by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration is that Rs. 17,405 are covered as insurance charges, i.e., premium. Other than that no information is supplied by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever there is information, you pass it on to Mr. Bhakta.

Now, Dr. D. N. Reddy.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to one thing. The same thing is happening in the case of the Union Territories. When I tabled the question for the Ministry of Home Affairs who are supposed to answer, then it was sent to the other Ministries stating that they will answer, and they said that the information was not got by them. So, you tell us how the interest of these Union Territories would be protected.

(Interruptions)

SHRI D. N. REDDY : Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House in how many States, the crop insurance scheme is implemented and how many beneficiaries are included in the scheme; if not by which year this scheme will be implemented in the whole country?

MR. SPEAKER : He can let it...

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There are 14 States and 4 Union Territories who have implemented the Scheme during Rabi 1985-86 and in Kharif 1985 the sum insured was about Rs. 541 crores. The insurance charges recovered were about Rs. 9.33 crores, number of claims received are 1,793 and the amount claimed is Rs. 98.46 crores.

(Interruptions)

Contract Labour

*911. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the operative provision of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Amendment Act, 1986 that any one working in an establishment for one year would be entitled to regular employment, has been implemented in the public sector organisations; and

(b) whether Government have advised the major employers of public sector viz. State Trading Corporation, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, Ports and Government owned Shipping Companies to regularise the employment of contract labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 does not contain any provision for regularisation of workers.

Only the definition of 'appropriate Government' in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been amended vide Act No. 14 of 1986 to bring it in conformity with the definition of 'appropriate Government' contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, under the Contract Labour (Abolition) Act, in respect of workers who are considered to be permanent in nature and linked with production, no contract employees can be appointed. Also, under the Industrial Disputes Act, the basic principle is that one who completes 240 days of work gets the status of a worker and he is entitled to continue in work. Now, the present position is, a person can supply 100 workers for a public sector undertaking, he can get more

than what those 100 persons together get. This is the nature of exploitation. The Government has a scheme like the Dock Labour Board scheme to get persons on piece rate and a private entrepreneur who supplies workers is eliminated. Will the Government make it a mandatory provision and see that all the public undertakings have such a scheme? The human dignity and dignity of labour will have to be upheld. To uphold the human dignity, will the Government implement it seriously?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, the Act is, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act. This Act does not contemplate to abolish contract labour everywhere. It is only in those fields where the work is of a permanent nature that the contract labour will be abolished, and wherever it is not possible, it will be regulated. Therefore, the question of abolishing contract labour everywhere does not arise under the present Act.

SHRI THOMPAN THOMAS : Sir, my second supplementary is, I know the experience is that this Act is observed more in violation than in implementation. Mostly this is going on everywhere, in any sphere. Will the Government appoint a high-power committee including Members of Parliament to inquire into the whole thing and to make suggestions?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, there already exists the Central Advisory Committee headed by the Labour Minister himself, at the Central level. Even at the State level, the Advisory Board is there, which is headed by the Labour Minister of the respective State.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the public sector corporations are now adopting in the name of security, contract labour system. Specifically, I can name instance like STC, MMTC, BHEL, large profit-making public sector concerns. Is the Ministry of Labour thinking of using its power under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act to intervene? After all, security is a permanent job, not of temporary nature. Will the Ministry intervene and immediately abolish

the contract system and insist that those who are now employed on contractual basis are absorbed?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, regarding the first part of it, I can certainly have a look into it regarding the security because, I have no information about that.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, namely whether they can be absorbed, under the present Act, it cannot be. That is the whole problem. Therefore, in some cases, we do face this problem, because the present Act does not have any provision to absorb them. Last time when the Bill was discussed here, there had been a demand from the House that the Act should be amended. Sir, I have made an assurance in the House that we are contemplating changes in this Act.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, this House has said about the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act a number of times that there is no provision to make the contract labour permanent, in the Act. You forget public sector, even for private sector, there is no provision, in this Act. If the contract labour is terminated, we cannot go to the court for his reinstatement also. There is no provision in this Act as to what percentage of labour should be contract labour. Even a good man can appoint 100 per cent labour as contract. 40 years after independence, we have such sweet names of Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act, when there are no provisions at all for their absorption, when there are 5 crores of people unemployed. Everywhere, in public and private sectors, the number of contract, casual, *badli*, trainee and apprentice has risen up to 50 per cent of the permanent labour.

Considering this seriousness, whether the Government—I know, I have heard the speeches of both the Ministers that it should be changed. But when? When is the Government seriously thinking that all these Act, mainly the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, in this context, should be changed, giving all protection to labour. In what time, I want the assurance from

the Minister— one week, one year, 5 years or 10 years. There is no assurance given.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I have already answered this question.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : The biggest hindrance being faced in the abolition of contract labour is to determine which work is of perennial nature and which is not. All the committees constituted so far for this purpose have said that the contract labour system should be abolished, but no decision has so far been reached as to where contract labour system should be abolished and where it should continue. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would constitute a committee of experts to determine as to which of the work is of perennial nature and where the contract labour system should be abolished, for instance canteens. It exists in every factory and it has been generally seen that contract system is being perpetuated there.

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down, it has already been answered.

[English]

It has already been answered.

Gold Mines in Bihar

*912. **SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gold mines found in Bihar;

(b) the quality of the gold found; and

(c) the quantity of gold which will be available to the country after purification ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c), At

present there are no working gold mines in Bihar. Production of gold in Bihar comes from recovery of gold as a by-product from electrolytic refining of copper by Hindustan Copper Limited. However GSI and MECL are carrying out exploration for gold in a number of localities in Singhbhum, Ranchi and Monghyr districts. This exploration work is expected to be completed by 1988. The quantity and quality of the gold can be assessed only after completion of this detailed exploration work.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Sir, here is my first supplementary. The Hon. Minister has stated in his reply that at present there are no working gold mines in Bihar and that production of gold in Bihar comes from recovery of gold as a by-product of electrolytic refining of copper by Hindustan Copper Limited. The Hon. Minister has further stated that exploration work for gold is being carried out at a number of places in Singhbhum, Ranchi and Monghyr districts in Bihar. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government are aware that gold substance is found in the sands of Sone River which flows in West Champaran and through the hills of Rohtas ? Since the evidence points to the presence of gold there, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government would order to undertake exploration work there and if so, the time by which such work would be started and the time by which the exploration would be completed ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : The point raised by the Hon. Member will be considered soon.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government are aware that the production of gold is falling in the country as a whole ? Also, how many gold mines are there in our country and what is the quality of gold that is being produced in the country ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : The question is very lengthy. Whatever gold