

Shri Alagesan: The number was not so large after the negotiating machinery was introduced, but prior to this there were half-yearly meetings that the Federations were holding along with the Railway Board. In those meetings a larger number was permitted, but even so the larger number did not represent one member per affiliated union.

Shri Nambiar: May I know what is the procedure followed if the Railway Board refuses to accept the recommendations of the A.I.R.F.? Are the differences referred to a Tribunal and if so, may I know whether the previous acceptance of the Railway Board is required?

Shri Alagesan: It would have been known from the previous question put by another hon. Member that when there is no agreement the important differences on which there is no agreement can be referred to a Tribunal.

Shri Nambiar: Without the previous sanction of the Railway Board?

Shri Alagesan: No. Both have to consent and refer the matter to a Tribunal.

Shri Nambiar: In case the Railway Board refuses to consent, then what is the procedure?

Shri Alagesan: It is a hypothetical question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether there were any cases previously where the Board did not agree to referring the differences to a Tribunal?

Shri Alagesan: The system is not even a year old, and there has been no such occasion.

BRIDGE OVER RIVER MAHANADI

*1301. **Shri Jangde:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether any agreement between Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Central Governments has been reached with regard to the construction of a bridge near about Chandrapur between Raigarh and Saraipali on Mahanadi River on the border of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, at what stage has this agreement come to and when is it going to be finalised?

(c) What is the estimated time within which this bridge will be completed?

(d) What would be the estimated cost to be incurred in constructing this bridge?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) The Governments concerned have not put forward any agreed proposals.

(c) and (d). The construction of the proposed bridge, which lies on a State road, is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments.

Shri Jangde: May I know the places in which and the rivers over which the Central Government is constructing bridges?

Shri Alagesan: It is over the same river—Mahanadi—that the Central Government is constructing two bridges very near the site which the hon. Member has in mind.

Shri Jangde: In Madhya Pradesh, I mean.

Shri Alagesan: Perhaps. I do not know. It may be in Orissa. I do not know whether it is in Madhya Pradesh only.

ALL INDIA TRADES CERTIFICATION BOARD

*1302. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the establishment of an All India Trade Certification Board finalised its report?

(b) If so, what are its chief recommendations?

(c) When are Government likely to take decisions on these?

(d) If not, when is the Committee likely to submit its report?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes; the report has been finalised and submitted to Government, on 6-11-52.

(b) Report is still under examination of Government.

(c) Action is being taken to examine the report expeditiously.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri K. K. Basu: Part (b) refers to the chief recommendations and the answer of the hon. Minister is something different.

Shri Damodara Menon: Yes, on the same point, I want to ask the hon.

Minister what are the chief recommendations. He has said in his reply that the recommendations are under consideration. ●

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Until they are considered by Government, they will not be published. I understand it. If it is possible for me to understand it, why cannot the hon. Members understand it. So long as a report that is submitted to Government is not considered by Government, and until it is considered by Government, it is not usual to publish the report or the recommendations.

Shri K. K. Basu: Then he could have said so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: Question No. 1303, Sir.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): May I suggest that question No. 1307 also may be taken along with this? It refers to the same subject.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. Question No. 1307 also may be answered together with this.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN BERAR

*1303. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Minister for Agriculture, Government of India found, in his recent visit to Berar division of Madhya Pradesh, that the food and commercial crops have totally failed in some districts in that area?

(b) What assurance the Minister has given to the famine-stricken people who had approached him during his visit in the area mentioned in part (a) above?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Minister for Agriculture recently toured the Achalpur Tahsil in the Amravati District and the Tahsils of Jalgaon Khamgaon and Malkapur in Buldhana. Jowar and cotton crops have been considerably damaged for want of last rain.

I would like to add that the State Agriculture Minister accompanied me in my tour of Amravati District and the State Revenue Minister toured Buldhana District a day after me.

(b) None. I believe in rendering assistance without giving assurances.

FOOD SCARCITY IN MADHYA PRADESH

*1307. **Shri Bhatkar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether he has visit-

ed the scarcity areas in Amravati and Buldhana districts in Berar in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) What steps have the State Government taken to relieve distress?

(c) Is it a fact that the inhabitants of certain villages had to leave their villages owing to scarcity of drinking water?

(d) What steps have the Central Government taken to relieve the distress there?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the steps taken by the State Government to relieve distress in the affected areas is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Some cases of this nature were reported to the Minister during his tour.

(d) It is for the State Government to both suggest and implement measures and any possibility of the Central Government giving assistance to the State Government would be examined if a reference to that effect is received. The State Government is aware of the situation and has already taken some steps in this direction.

STATEMENT

The State Government have taken following measures to relieve distress in the affected areas:—

- (i) Suspension or remission of land revenue.
- (ii) Suspension of lease money under the Berar Regulation of Agricultural Leases Act.
- (iii) Postponement of the recovery of instalments of taccavi.
- (iv) Liberal advance of taccavi.
- (v) Postponement of the execution of civil court decrees.
- (vi) Grant of forest concessions regarding free removal of forest produce etc.
- (vii) Arrangement for supply of fodder.
- (viii) Opening of relief works in the affected areas to provide employment.