

who were elected as Delegates by the Railwaymen to attend the above conference were denied usual relief, leave and pass facilities; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Works Manager Golden Rock threatened the Labour Union of forcibly removing a piece of work of decorations made at the gates of the Labour Unions grounds on the plea of encroachment?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). Yes. Permission was sought by the South Indian Railway Labour Union—for holding their annual conference in railway land in the Railway Colony at Golden Rock. As such facilities are not given to unrecognised Unions permission was refused by the Administration.

(c) No special instructions were issued by the Administration to departmental officers to relieve delegates and issue them railway passes. The grant of leave to railway staff in the ordinary course rests entirely on the discretion of the departmental officers and it may be that some staff, in the exigencies of service, might not have been granted leave for attending this conference.

(d) No.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Labour Union has applied for recognition and whether this lack of recognition stood in the way of granting this right?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir, the Union has applied for recognition.

**Mr. Speaker:** His point is whether it was the want of recognition that led to the refusal of the facilities asked for.

**Shri Alagesan:** At the time, the permission was asked for, the Union was an unrecognised one and hence the permission was refused.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, what exactly is the position as to the recognition of the Union?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not think, Sir, that that question directly arises from this.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether it is the policy of the Government not to give railway premises or buildings to railwaymen irrespective of the fact that they are members of unrecognised Unions or not?

**Shri Alagesan:** Yes, Sir; railway premises are allowed to be occupied by recognised Unions for such conferences.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, in this particular case, though the Union was not recognised, the railway men asked for permission for their use not as members of the Labour Union but as railway men and it was refused?

**Mr. Speaker:** From his answer it is very clear.

**Shri Alagesan:** The request came on behalf of the Union.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether the leave passes claimed by the railway men on their own account for attending some business,—of course, the Labour Union—were refused or not?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not follow the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is no use following the question any further because he is going to argue.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know whether these passes applied for by these railway men on their own account were refused or not?

**Shri Alagesan:** I have no information on that point, Sir.

#### PRICE OF SUGAR (FIXATION)

\*602. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while fixing the price of sugarcane, no price for sugar has been fixed this year as in the previous year; and

(b) the grounds for not fixing the price for sugar during this year?

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

(b) Control over price of sugar is not considered necessary as the supply of sugar is far in excess of the demand. To safe-guard the interests of the consumer, however, it has been decided to so regulate the release from the factories that a reserve of approximately 3 lakh tons sugar is always available with the industry, and if the market prices of sugar rise to unreasonably high levels, the Government will release sugar from the reserve stocks at prices which the Government may then fix statutorily corresponding to the minimum price of sugarcane, and will also direct it to be sold through such agencies as may be considered necessary.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know if it is in consonance with the policy of the Government to allow different prices of sugar in different areas or factories?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We do not fix the prices. They are allowed to take their own course.

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I take it that factories which have been allowed to purchase the cane at a price lower than the one fixed by Government is allowed to sell the sugar at a lower price?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We have fixed only the minimum price.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether at the time of fixing the price of sugar cane Government had in mind the fact that the water rates for sugar cane fields would also be increased by 300 per cent?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The cost of production is taken into consideration from time to time and I am sure that this factor must have been taken into account.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** But the water rate has been increased after the cane price was fixed.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** After the price of cane has been fixed, the sugar price has not been increased.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Not the sugar price. I am saying that the water rate for sugar-cane fields has been increased by 200 per cent. and in some cases by 300 per cent.

**Shri Kidwai:** But then according to our new procedure, the cane-growers are not necessarily to sell their cane to the factories. They can convert it into gur if they can get a better price thereby. If that happens, then the factories will have to pay a higher price for the cane.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Is the Government in a position to contradict the fact that the bumper crop in sugar cane has led to a reduction in the price?

**Shri Kidwai:** That is not a fact. The fact is that the cane prices in the last few years were proportionately higher than the prices of other agricultural commodities and therefore the acreage under cane was going up and the price of sugar was so high that it was not available to the average consumer. Therefore, taking all these things into

consideration the prices have been reduced and brought into line with the prices of other cereals.

**Shri S. N. Das:** In fixing the sugar cane prices, may I know what formula or basis has been adopted? Is it the formula put forward by Mr. Srivastava some years ago?

**Shri Kidwai:** No formula has been adopted but we have taken into consideration the prices that were prevalent about four years ago when the prices of wheat and rice were higher than what they are today and when the prices of cane were fixed as low as Rs. 1/2/0 and Rs. 1/4/0. Therefore, we have brought the prices of cane to the same proportion, although the prices of other cereals are lower today.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we had a lot of these questions during the debate that was held recently. He explained all these things. We shall go to the next question

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I request that question 608 which is allied to question 603 may be answered along with question 603?

**Shri V. V. Giri:** Shall I answer question 608 also, Sir?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

#### EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

\*603. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee, with Mr. Shiv Rao as Chairman has been appointed by Government to examine the working of the Employment Exchanges;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Minister in his speech made on the 7th September, 1952, at the Industrial Training Institute at Jaikhalili in Mysore said that whatever the recommendations of the above Committee might be, he would see that the Employment Exchanges and the Training Centres maintained by them would stay;

(c) whether orders were issued some time back that any selections made for recruitment to clerical and low-paid technical posts under the Government of India should be deemed to have been made through Employment Exchanges; and

(d) whether Government are aware that small use is made of these Exchanges by State Governments, Local