

ed is the Minister in charge of Railways.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has it been brought to the notice of Government that labourers have been forced to give away their rice and wheat in their houses, because the police made a search in their houses?

Shri Alagesan: Only the looted property was recovered. That is all our information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we are not entering into any argument as to whether it was looted or antecedent property. It is left for the investigators.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Have any railway employees been killed in this incident, and has any compensation been paid to their families?

Shri Alagesan: At Vijayawada, none.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any persons have complained that their property has been taken away by the railway authorities, even though they protested that they did not take part in this looting?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to follow the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether any complaints have been received by the railway authorities, that the personal property—and not the stolen property—of some persons have been recovered from them.

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. We have no information.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether the property includes not only Government property but also private persons' property?

Shri Alagesan: These are goods booked,—parcels and luggage.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know, Sir, who is to bear the balance of 15 lakhs?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a legal question.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

*505. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total production of sugar in India in the season 1951-52 and what is the estimate of production this year?

(b) Is it a fact that crushing of canes started late this year and if so, what are the reasons?

(c) Is it a fact that smaller number of factories will work during the season of 1952-53 than in the last season?

(d) What is the percentage recovery of sugar from canes as expected this year, and how does it compare with last year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The total production of sugar in India in the season 1952-51 was 14.97 lakh tons. This year it is expected to be about 12 or 12.5 lakh tons.

(b) Yes. The main reason for late starting of the sugar factories this season is that the cane crop in areas of most of the factories was smaller. It was, therefore, not necessary for factories to start early to crush available cane. Further as recovery of sugar in the early part of the season is low, most of the factories delayed crushing in order to obtain higher average recovery.

(c) Yes.

(d) The average recovery of sugar on cane in India this year is expected to be about 9.9 per cent, as against 9.57 per cent, last year.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether the proportion of the decrease in the acreage under sugar cane cultivation has been in accordance with the decrease in production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): There has hardly been a reduction in acreage as the effect of reduction in cane price will be felt next year. The decrease in production is due to the disease in cane in some parts of the country.

Shri Gopala Rao: What are the reasons for the fall in production of sugar cane? While it was 14.97 lakh tons last year, this year it is estimated to be 12.5 lakh tons. Is it the progress of the Five Year Plan?

Shri Kidwai: No. It will still be more than what is aimed at in the Five Year Plan.

Shri V. P. Nayyar: The hon. Minister has given figures of production. May I know, Sir, what is the installed capacity of production for sugar mills in India?

Shri Kidwai: At least what it was last year, but I think a lakh tons more.

श्री मुनश्चुनवाला : मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि इस बार ईख कम हुई, ईख कम हुई इसलिये शुगर का प्रोडक्शन कम हुआ ? तो ईख कम क्यों हुई, एरिया तो बहुत बेशी था ?

श्री किबवई : कुछ जगहों पर इस साल ईख में बीमारी लग गई और उस की वजह से कम हुई, और बाज्र जगह तूफान आए, जैसे द्रावणकोर में, उस से भी ईख को नुकसान पहुंचा ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : यू० पी० में फसल कैसी है ?

श्री किबवई : यू० पी० में वेस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स की फसल खराब गई, चूनांचे वेस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट में कम होगी । ईस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में बढ़ जायगी ।

Suri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, if the decrease in acreage this year is due to the fact that many growers have not yet been paid for the cane that was supplied last year?

Shri Kidwai: That is also not correct, because the effect of the last year's arrears on the sowing will be next year.

PROVIDENT FUND SCHEMES FOR WORKERS

***506. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what are the advantages of the localisation of operation of Provident Fund Schemes to workers?

(b) What are the conditions of localisation and to what industries has it been extended?

(c) What have been the results of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme working in the coal mines?

(d) What industries and what percentage of workers are now being benefited by the Provident Fund Scheme?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the decentralisation of administration of the 'Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952. Decentralisation makes for speedier disposal of provident fund business

and promotes closer association of the employees with the administration of the Fund at all levels.

(b) The present policy is to allow liberal permission to factories to run their schemes subject to certain limitations and conditions. It is proposed to decentralise further the administration of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme after some experience is gained in its working in the six scheduled industries, namely, cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textiles. A copy of the conditions of exemption is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 15].

The conditions of further decentralisation are still to be worked out.

(c) The results of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme are:—

(i) it is having a stabilising effect on a labour force which was casual and mobile; and

(ii) it has brought some awareness among the workers of the advantages of thrift and provision for old age, and for dependents in the event of early death of a worker.

(d) About 90 per cent. of the employees working in cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textile industries are covered by the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952. In regard to coal mines, a worker who once earns a quarterly bonus, becomes a member of the Coal Mines Provident Fund. The total membership now is about six lakhs, including 'dead accounts', which shows that the percentage of members to the total number of workers must be very high, probably of the order of 80 per cent.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, what is the ground on which certain employees are excluded from the advantages of this scheme, and what is the number of such employees?

Shri V. V. Giri: Employees are not excluded. Certain industries have been excluded, or at any rate, are not included. Under section 4, they can also be included provided the Government is of the opinion that they could be included.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: In the statement that I have got, it is said: "Under the scheme, all employees, other than excluded employees, who have completed one year's....."