

ernment have not fixed any time-limit to settle the claims within a set period for the benefit of the employees.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I require notice, Sir.

Shri Frank Anthony: Will the Government be prepared to lay on the Table a statement of the number of cases which have not been settled for a period of three years?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes; if the hon. Member so desires, it would be done.

Shri Dabhi: May I know if it is not a fact that I brought to the notice of the hon. Minister the case of an employee, in whose case all these preliminaries have been completed, and still—in that case—the employee has not received payment yet?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: In that case, the hon. Member can rest assured that the matter will be settled very soon.

उत्तर प्रदेश में पटसन का उत्पादन

*११८१. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या साख तबा कृषि मंत्री तह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पटसन के गुण-प्रकार सम्बन्धी विशेषज्ञ समिति की रिपोर्ट में उत्तर प्रदेश में उत्पादित पटसन को निम्न श्रेणी का बताया गया है; तथा

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उत्तर प्रदेश के पटसन को अच्छी किस्म का बनाने के लिए सरकार का क्या योजना करने का विचार है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Expert Committee on the Quality of Jute has stated in its report that while some parts of Uttar Pradesh produce good jute, the general quality of Uttar Pradesh jute, as rated by the jute mills, appears to be poor.

(b) For the improvement of the quality of jute in U.P., the Government of India have suggested to the State Government schemes for the excavation of 320 retting tanks and setting up of a farm for producing improved jute seed for distribution to the cultivators. The U.P. Government have also been asked to popularise the use of fertilisers and of seed-drills and wheel-hoes for sowing and cultural operations. They have also been asked to organise the plant protection measures.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस में सन के उत्पादन के बास्ते हमारी सरकार क्या पग उठा रही है ?

श्री किचबर्द : यह सवाल तो जूट के बारे में था ।

PLANTATIONS LABOUR ACT

*1190. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea prices have improved considerably;

(b) if so, whether the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 will be implemented now; and

(c) if so, the probable date of its implementation?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) During the current year tea prices have improved as compared to the prices which obtained during 1952.

(b) and (c). A meeting of the tripartite Plantations Committee is being called shortly to consider, *inter alia*, the question of implementation of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. Further action in that connection will be taken in the light of the Committee's recommendations.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know, Sir, if the Act which was passed by this House is dependent upon the sweet will of the employers, who would have to come together in a conference so that it may be implemented?

Shri V. V. Giri: No, Sir.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that since April last the tea prices have been rocketing so much that 80 per cent. of the tea gardens made profit from last year's crop, i.e., 1952, which was the crisis year?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government is anxious to have the implementation of this thing.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: How are we to understand that anxiety? Will they have it done earlier?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have nothing to say except that the Government is actively looking into the matter.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether the Government admits that the delay in the implementation of the Plantations Labour Act is due to the slump in the prices?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know, Sir, whether it is open to the Government, by executive action, to delay the implementation of this Act which was passed after taking into consideration all the actual circumstances?

Shri V. V. Giri: Rules have to be framed. They have not been framed yet. Therefore, there is delay in the implementation: especially on account of the fact that there was a depression and a team was sent to study the question. All these things delayed the whole matter and now we are dealing with the situation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know what is the machinery they have in the Labour Department to implement the decision passed by this House—especially about the Plantations Labour Act?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have already stated the reasons why it could not be done.

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ACT

*1191. **Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government

have decided to set up regional committees to supervise the work in connection with the Employees' Provident Fund Act?

(b) If so, what would be the functions of these committees?

(c) Has the regional committee for Bihar been set up?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes. Regional Committees have been formed in the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Madhya Bharat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) The function of these Committees is to advise the Central Board on such matters as the Central Board may refer to them.

(c) Yes.

Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha: May I know whether the Bihar Members have been selected and, how they were selected?

Shri V. V. Giri: Shri R. S. Hegde, I.A.S., Secretary to Government Bihar, Chairman, Shri B. P. Singh, Shri H. Prasad, Shri R. S. Modi, Shri H. D. Vishnu, Shri K. D. Phillip, Shri Biswan Singh, Shri Biren Roy and Shri M. John.

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

*1192. **Shri Vallabharas:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the class IV employees of the Civil Aviation Department have specified hours of work and weekly off-day?

(b) Is there any proposal to reduce the hours of work from 12 hours to 8 hours a day in regard to the said employees?

(c) Are these employees having the benefit of the General Provident Fund Scheme?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Except in the case of certain Chowkidars employed in the Civil Aviation Department, all other class IV employees are working to normal office