

I have not completed my sentence. Normally these folk songs are characteristic of the rural area rather than the city area where we have more of sophistication.

Shri Chattopadhyaya rose—

Mr. Speaker: We will wait for the Information and Broadcasting Minister to come.

A. I. R. Transmitters

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*171 { **Shri Sanganna:**
Shri Shivananjappa:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 217 on 24th July, 1956 in respect of the A.I.R. Cuttack and state:

(a) the progress made so far in the installation of high power transmitter;

(b) whether arrangements for round the-clock programmes are also being made at this Station; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The building construction has been commenced and equipment has been received in India.

(b) and (c). The transmitter is intended to strengthen and extend the listening range of the programmes which are even at present being given at the station and which in respect of duration follow the pattern of programmes at all other stations. The transmitter is incapable of being used for an all-India round-the-clock service.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether any innovations have been made in the administration of the Cuttack programmes?

Shri Karmarkar: We go on making whatever improvements are available to us from time to time. But I am not aware of any innovation being made as such.

Employees' State Insurance Scheme

*173. { **Shri Kajrolkar:**
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Shivananjappa:

• Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical care under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been extended to the families of insured persons;

(b) if so, the number of persons likely to be benefited;

(c) whether it will affect the present rates of contribution by employees and employers and if so to what extent;

(d) whether the State Governments have been consulted and if so what is their response; and

(e) what is the definition of "family" so far as such extension is concerned?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a). A decision to this effect has been taken and steps are being taken to implement it.

(b) About 60 to 70 lakhs ultimately.

(c) The rate of employees' contribution will not be increased. The rates of special contribution payable by employers will be raised from 1% to 1½% in non-implemented areas and from 1½% to 3½% in implemented areas.

(d) Yes; the State Governments were consulted and they were in favour of covering the families of the workers also.

(e) The spouse and minor legitimate and adopted children dependant upon the insured person and where the insured person is a male his dependant parents.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the financial implications of this extension scheme have been assessed.

Shri Abid Ali: Yes. It is about Rs. 16 per insured worker. After the families are covered, it will be Rs. 40 per insured worker per year.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the medical facilities that would be provided this extension scheme will be on a par with the existing facilities or will there be any curtailment in quality and quantity?

Shri Abid Ali: For those already insured, there will not be any curtailment. For the family members, this is the extension.

Mr. Speaker: The Question-Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Telephone and Telecommunication Department (Hyderabad)

*139. **Shri Achalu:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 809 on the 21st December, 1955 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken regarding the period from

which the Telephone and Telecommunications Department of Hyderabad is to be treated as a permanent; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram) : (a) Yes, from 4th April, 1949.

(b) Does not arise.

Swang Railway Colliery

*141. { **Shri Chattopadhyaya**;
 { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao** :

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2710 on the 28th May, 1956, and state whether the Court of Inquiry appointed under provisions of Regulation 48 of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, against the Agent and Manager of the Swang Railway Colliery has since submitted its findings?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : No. The Agent and Manager have filed writ petitions in the High Court of Judicature, Patna, against the decision to proceed against them under Regulation 48. The High Court have restrained the Court of Inquiry from taking steps.

Giridih Collieries

*142. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao**: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in production at Giridih Collieries as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Technical Experts Committee Report; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the production has been stepped up?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) and (b). It is too early to assess the effect of the implementation of the recommendations on production.

Village Industries

*145. **Shri Jhulan Sinha** : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government encourage to any extent the village industries in the country by purchase for its own use of hand-pounded rice, ghani oil, palm gur and other eatables produced by these industries ; and

(b) whether Government also purchase to any extent the products of soap from non-edible oils, match boxes and handicrafts produced on small scales?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) and (b). The general policy is to encourage whenever possible, the purchase of articles manufactured by village industries. The limited production is however lifted normally by local markets and there is no appreciable purchase by Government.

The handicraft articles are purchased for display in museums or exhibitions held in India and abroad, for making gifts on behalf of India and for furnishing and decoration.

Lodna Colliery Incident

*152. **Shri K. S. Rao** : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the findings of the Inspector of Mines who enquired into the drowning of four miners at Lodna Colliery, Jharia, due to inundation on the night of the 12th September, 1956?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : According to the findings of the Regional Inspector of Mines the accident was due to non-compliance of the provisions of regulation 74 of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, and regulation 5(2) of the Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1955.

Zawar Mines

*157. **Shri Bheekha Bhai** : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1154 on the 30th August, 1956, and state:

(a) the result of the enquiry made into the demands of the labourers of Zawar mines ;

(b) the extent to which demands have been conceded; and

(c) how many of the demands have been referred to arbitration?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : (a) to (c). On the intervention of the Labour Inspector (Central) Bhillwara, an agreement was reached in respect of six demands of the workmen. Both the management and the workmen agreed to refer the remaining demands for arbitration to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. The decision was given on the 21st September, 1956. Out of the twenty-two demands referred to him, thirteen were fully conceded, five demands partly conceded, one rejected and one remains to be settled. Two demands were withdrawn.