

Sir Godfrey Fell : A statement is laid on the table which gives the information required.

	Extra expenditure per annum.	Percentage of increase.
	Rs.	Rs.
(a) Foremen	86,000	40
Assistant Foremen	1,00,000	34
(b) Supervisors	The number of Supervisors employed varies with the work, and no reliable figure can be given of the additional expenditure entailed by granting increased rates to this class.	
(c) Clerks	1,68,000	85 per cent.
(d) Artificers and labourers	The number of artificers and labourers varies according to the work, and here again no reliable figure can be given. Speaking generally, increases have been on the scale of 33 per cent. upwards.	

OVERSEAS ALLOWANCE IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

442. **Dr. H. S. Gour :** Will the Government please state :

(a) If it is the fact that the Home recruited men in Ordnance Factories, viz., Foremen and Assistant Foremen, have been granted a further increase of an overseas allowance thereby raising the percentage of increase on their pre-war rates of pay to approximately 60 per cent. ?

(b) If it is the fact that the artificers and labourers in certain Ordnance Factories are in receipt of grain compensation allowance in addition to enhanced rates of pay giving a percentage of approximately 60 per cent. on their pre-war rates of pay ?

(c) What additional expenditure would be involved if sanction were accorded to the new scale of pay proposed by the Director General of Ordnance and submitted to Government for the existing staff of leading hands and Indian Service mechanics in the Ordnance Factories ?

Sir Godfrey Fell : (a) The answer is in the negative. The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Grain compensation or dearness allowances are from time to time granted to the establishments of certain factories on the scale and under the conditions laid down by the Local Government of the Province in which the factory is situated. In order to calculate the percentage of increase on pre-war pay resulting from the grant of such allowances it would be necessary to collect detailed figures from each of the factories and this will be done if the Honourable Member desires to pursue the matter.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his Question No. 440 which has just been answered. The 25 per cent. increase of pay given to the class in question entails additional expenditure of approximately Rs. 20,000 per year.

PETITION OF INDIAN SERVICE MECHANICS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

443. **Dr. H. S. Gour :** (a) Is the Government aware that in one Ordnance Factory alone 6 petitions were submitted to the Heads of their Departments

by leading hands and Indian Service mechanics praying to be treated like their brother workmen by increasing their rates of pay, and pointing out that except for a temporary war allowance they were the only ones who were working on pre-war rates of pay, and that owing to the increased cost of living they were being put to great hardships?

(b) If the statements in the petitions are correct, will the Government please state the cause for such differential treatment being meted out to these men and do Government propose to recompense them for the hardships and loss they are being put to by early sanctioning for them a new scale of pay, making the new scale retrospective to September 1919, and basing it on a time-scale?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a) A number of representations have been received from leading hands and Indian Service mechanics and the decision arrived at has been stated in reply to the Honourable Member's Question No. 440, which has been answered this morning.

(b) As the Honourable Member has just been informed, an increase of pay has already been sanctioned, but it is not intended to give retrospective effect to an earlier date than 1st October 1920. The class in question had previously received an increase of pay in 1918, and there has been no differentiation of principle in the treatment of the various classes of employees in the Ordnance Factories. I may add that Government have under their consideration the Report of the Committee on the Ordnance Factories, which has recommended *inter alia* the adoption of new scales of establishments and new rates of pay.

TEA CESS.

444. Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala: (a) In what way is the money realised as Tea cess expended?

(b) Is it a fact that the said money is partly spent not only in permeating the country with tea stalls, but also in alluring people to collect at tea stalls by means of providing free entertainments, in the nature of vocal and instrumental singing and music? Is the allegation true that many people who have never used tea are entrapped into the tea drinking habit in this way?

(c) Will the Government kindly collect information and lay on the table a statement showing the number of (a) tea consumers, (b) tea vendors, and (c) tea consumed in a year before the introduction of Tea cess and also at the present day?

(d) Is it the policy of the Government to encourage the tea-drinking habit and to adopt extraordinary means and ways to increase the same?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the proceedings of this Assembly dealing with the Tea Cess Act Amendment Bill. The object of this cess was then explained.

(b) The Government of India have no information as to the detailed methods used by the Tea Cess Committee in advertising the use of tea and have had no complaints from the people who are supposed to have been entrapped into tea drinking either by the two classes of singing, vocal and instrumental, which the Honourable Member distinguishes or even by music.