

Cess Committee has recommended that speculation in shellac through the Calcutta Shellac Exchange, Ltd, be banned and that forward trading in shellac be regulated under the Forward Contracts Regulation Act. The Government have also invited the views of the Governments of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh which are the chief lac producing States. Their replies are awaited. The Indian Lac Cess Committee has further emphasised the importance of increasing the consumption of shellac in India and reducing dependence on export. The Government of Bihar have also appointed a Sub-Committee to go into the question at the State level, for suggesting remedial measures.

MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS

857. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any scheme regarding the minor irrigation works from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in their State during the current year?

(b) Is it a fact that one and a half crores of rupees have been sanctioned to the above-mentioned State as a loan, for the minor irrigation works?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A loan of Rs. 40.45.500 has so far been sanctioned, and proposals for a further loan of Rs. 44.45 lakhs are under consideration.

रेलवे-पुल

८५८. स्वामी रामानन्द शास्त्री : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश में कालपी, मुरादाबाद और बालावाली के रेलवे-पुलों को इस प्रकार का बनाने के लिये पग उठा रही है, जिस से वे यातायात की दूसरी सवारियों के लिये भी कार्ययोग्य हो जायें ; तथा

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या यह करने का अधिकार राज्य सरकार को है और उस दशा में केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा क्या सुविधायें दी जायेंगी ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) (i) In the case of the Bridge at Kalpi,

the possibility of permitting private cars to use the road decking on the Bridge during limited intervals in the day-time during the Monsoon season, is under investigation.

(ii) The Ramganga Bridge at Moradabad already has a cart Roadway provided.

(iii) In the case of the Bridge at Balawali, there is no road decking existing at present and there is no intention to provide one as the girders would be overstressed.

(b) The existing girders at Kalpi and Balawali cannot take the additional weight of a normal roadway and therefore the question of modifying these bridges to take general road traffic or authorising the State Government to modify them does not arise.

RAILWAY LAND

859. Shri B. N. Kureel: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of surplus land at the sides of Railway tracks which was handed over to the District Magistrate Rae Bareilly (U.P.) for leasing out to the cultivators under the "G.M.F." Scheme; and

(b) the total area of land actually leased out so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 5.65 acres.

(b) This information is not yet available from the State Government as they have not finalised the arrangements for leasing out such lands to cultivators, so far.

FOODGRAINS FOR MADRAS

860. Shri Boovaraghasamy: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of food-grains recently demanded by the Madras State from the Central Government?

(b) What are the names of food-grains demanded by Madras State?

(c) What are the names and the quantity of foodgrains so far sent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). During the recent discussions held at Bombay, the Government of Madras desired an immediate supply of an extra 20,000 tons of millets and also an advance allotment of 42,000 tons rice against their import quota for

1953. 15,000 tons *jower* and 18,700 tons rice have been allotted against this request and are being lifted by the State. We are considering the possibility of allotting more rice and millets to them.

CONVERSION OF LAND INTO COTTON AND SUGAR-CANE GROWING LAND

861. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of wheat-growing land in the Punjab were converted into cotton and sugarcane growing land during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952; and

(b) the quantity of additional cotton and sugarcane produced as a result of this conversion?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No net diversion of area from wheat to cotton and sugarcane has taken place in Punjab during 1949-50 to 1951-52, since area under all these crops has been steadily increasing during these years.

(b) Does not arise.

B. C. G. CENTRES

862. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of B.C.G. centres in the State of the Punjab and the names of places where they are working; and

(b) the number of persons who got themselves treated in these centres during the year 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) B. C. G. vaccination programme is being carried out at present in the following Districts of Punjab:

1. Ambala
2. Amritsar
3. Ferozepore
4. Gurzaon
5. Hissar
6. Jullundur
7. Karnal
8. Ludhiana
9. Rohtak
10. Simla

(b) B. C. G. vaccination is not a treatment but a preventive inoculation. During the year 1952 (up to November, 1952) 1,370,863 persons have been tuberculin tested, of whom 384,446 persons, who were found tuberculin-negative, were vaccinated with B. C. G.

POST OFFICES

863. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices having Savings Bank transactions in the State of the Punjab; and

(b) whether Government propose to extend the Savings Bank facilities in post offices in which it does not exist?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The number of post offices doing Savings Bank work in the State of the Punjab on the 31-3-1952 was:

Head Offices.	... 13
Sub Offices.	... 384
Branch Offices.	... 191

(b) Yes, the question of authorising 24 more post offices to transact Savings Bank business is under consideration.

NEW POST OFFICES

864. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices, telegraph offices, and telephone exchanges opened in the State of the Punjab during 1952;

(b) the number of new post offices, telegraph offices, and telephone exchanges opened in Hoshiarpur and Kangra Districts; and

(c) the number of existing post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in Hoshiarpur and Kangra Districts?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a)

Post Offices	... 111
Telegraph Offices	... 31
Telephone exchanges	... 5

(b)

Post Offices	... 20
Telegraph offices and telephone exchanges.	Nil.

(c)

Post Offices	... 638
Telegraph Offices	... 48
Telephone Exchanges	... 2