

Shri D. C. Sharma: It appears that this disease is a very old one. If so, why has not Government taken any precautions against this disease all these years?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, precaution is being regularly taken. There are so many diseases and trees also get destroyed. To say that no precautionary measure is being taken all these years is not correct. Measures are being taken.

Dr. M. S. Aney: The hon. Minister said that some committee of the FAO said that the research institute is proceeding on right lines. Was this statement of theirs based upon the results shown by the research conducted by it or merely because they conform to their own concepts of research processes?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: When the Technical Working Party of the FAO said that research was being conducted on right lines, it is not based on any comparative study of other research stations, because nowhere any comparative study of other been made. So, it is their idea of the situation which they found in Kerala.

Rice Zones

*1179. **Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have now arrived at any final decision in regard to the total abolition of the rice zones;

(b) if so, when this decision is going to be put into effect; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative whether the Eastern Zone is proposed to be expanded to include Bihar in it?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to abolish the rice zones altogether. While the Government's policy is to widen the scope of the rice zones, wherever

possible, by linking contiguous surplus and deficit areas, with the ultimate object of abolishing the zonal system, the zonal arrangements in one form or other will have to continue till the country becomes self-sufficient in rice.

(c) No, Sir, there is no proposal at present to expand the Eastern Rice Zone to include Bihar.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that because of the wide disparity in prices prevailing in the border areas of Orissa and Bihar, large scale smuggling takes place and if so what action Government is taking so that smuggling does not take place?

Shri Shinde: What the hon. Member says is not correct according to Government's information.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I submit that I come from that area—the border area—and it is my personal experience that because of high prices prevailing on the other side of Orissa....

Mr. Speaker: He can pass on that information to the Minister sometime privately, if he has got experience of it.

Shri Heda: Andhra Pradesh which is the most surplus State so far as rice is concerned is included in the Southern Zone and still the Southern Zone is a surplus one. Is there any proposal to include Maharashtra and Gujerat in the Southern Zone, so that the surplus of Andhra Pradesh may go to these areas?

Shri Shinde: Government does not think that the Southern Zone is a surplus one, because Kerala which is one of the deficit States is in the Southern Zone. As the present arrangement goes Government thinks that the Southern Zone scheme is a proper one, and as it is there is no surplus.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know whether because of the rice zone, the rice producing cultivators get less prices than the prevailing prices in other markets?

Shri Shinde: The hon. Member's view is not correct.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it contemplated to effect any changes in the rice zone consisting of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujerat and if so what are those changes?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: No change is likely to be effected in the arrangement of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujerat comprising one zone.

Shri Iqbal Singh: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that Punjab rice is selling at very cheap rates and if so what steps Government propose to take?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is cheap. There is a rice zone of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. The measures that have been taken are taken with a view to controlling the prices and they are quite satisfactory.

Bhakra and Chambal Power for Rajasthan

*1181. **Shri P. C. Borooh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan has not so far been able to utilise its full share of Bhakra and Chambal Power;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to fully utilise the power potential without loss of time?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. A. Mehdi): (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) As regards Bhakra power available could not be utilised because the grid sub-stations at Ratangarh and Bikaner were not completed and com-

missioned earlier on account of late receipt of certain essential equipment like steel structures, D. C. equipment etc. In the case of Chambal, the utilisation has not been full because the grid sub-stations and the transmission lines have not yet been completed.

(c) The grid sub-stations at Ratangarh and Bikaner are expected to be completed and commissioned by June, 1962. In the case of power from Chambal the work on the grid sub-stations and the transmission lines is in progress and is expected to be completed shortly, when it should be possible to utilise the full allocation from this source.

Shri P. C. Borooh: May I know whether any assessment of the loss on account of the non-utilisation of the power by the Rajasthan Government, has been made

Shri S. A. Mehdi: There is no question of loss in this.

Mr. Speaker: On account of the non-utilisation. If it had been utilised, something more would have been fetched. That is what he means. Is there any assessment?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: If the full power load had been utilised, the total should have been 38 mega-watts, instead of 28 mega-watts.

Shri P. C. Borooh: May I know how long it would take for the Rajasthan Government to fully utilise the power and, if it would take a very long time, whether Government have any proposal to divert this power to other States like Delhi and other States which are experiencing a power scarcity?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: As I have already stated, one of the schemes is going to be completed in June, and the other is expected to be completed shortly; and the full utilisation will be possible within a very short period.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know how many kilo-watt hours of energy were offered to Rajasthan