

ing Paradip as an all-weather port. A project report has been prepared for the purpose by a U.K. firm of Engineer Consultants. The Government of India has approved the State Government's proposal to get the detailed drawings and estimates prepared by the same firm.

The question as to whether the Paradip Port Project should be treated as a Major Port Project has not been decided. Therefore the question of including it in the Central Government's projects does not arise at present.

Village Volunteer Force

*419. **Shri Rameshwar Tanti:** Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a nation-wide scheme for creating a Village Volunteer Force and Defence Labour Banks is going to be launched;

(b) if so, how it is going to help the cause of our national defence; and

(c) the total number of such volunteers?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, Sir, on the ensuing Republic Day.

(b) The scheme has been designed for the total mobilisation of both human and material resources of rural India through the country-wide network of C.D., P.R. and Co-operative organisations. The enthusiasm generated in the rural people will thus be canalised both for defence and the long term objective of economic development. Each Village Volunteer Force will have a three-fold Programme—production, mass education and village defence. A strong agricultural base is the first requisite of national defence. The production programme will constitute the core

of the work of the Village Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Bank.

(c) Does not arise yet.

Dairy Farm with Danish Assistance

*420. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri Bishanchandra Seth:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of experts from Denmark surveyed some areas suitable for setting up a dairy farm in India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in setting up this farm assistance from the Danish Government is being sought;

(c) what are the areas selected for this purpose; and

(d) when it is likely to be started?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. Sir. However, an offer of assistance has been made by the Danish Government of its own volition. It is tentative for the present, since the possibility of collaboration is under investigation.

(c) The survey covered Rajpur (U.P.) Mandya (Mysore), Bangalore, Ootacamund and Ranchi.

(d) It is premature to say, since no firm offer has yet been made.

Research on Pests and Insects

*421. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a research centre regarding pests and insects which are attracted by the fruit plants in the Punjab Hills;

(b) if so, where it will be located and what will be its annual expenditure?