

श्री विश्राम प्रसाद : अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि इस का सर्वे हो रहा है और उस को रिपोर्ट सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने दिन लगेगे और किस पंच वर्षीय योजना में उसे लागू किया जायेगा ?

श्री कानूनगो : यह सर्वे हो रही है और जो भी सूचना इकट्ठी होगी उसको वहाँ रख दिया जायेगा। इस में करीब एक महीना लगेगा, इस से ज्यादा नहीं।

Tea Industry

*659. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has recently analysed the major problems facing the tea industry in West Bengal and Assam;

(b) if so, the main difficulties pointed out by the Council; and

(c) the measures being taken to remove the same?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) At the instance of the Tea Board, the National Council of Applied Economic Research conducted in 1959 a survey of a few economically weak tea gardens in West Bengal, Cachar and Tripura.

(b) and (c). The Council felt that as the causes for the economic weakness of the gardens were diverse, no generally applicable solutions could be prescribed on the basis of a survey. The Council, however, suggested a detailed techno-economic survey to be conducted. The Board have recently concluded such surveys of tea gardens in Cachar, Tripura and Darjeeling in North East India. The conclusions of the Board are not yet available.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the Council of Applied Economic Research study revealed that a number of tea gardens are working under uneconomic conditions? If so, what is the number?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It has not been proved that they are uneconomic, because while it is true that larger plantations are better, even in many cases small growers have produced better results economically?

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether by the system of vegetative propagation the tea crop can be increased by more than 50 per cent according to a detailed study conducted by the Tuklai Experimental Station? Is it also a fact that this (Applied Economic Research) study says that too much reliance should not be placed on that? If so, what is Government's reaction?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I could not follow.

Mr. Speaker: It is a very difficult thing; the question is so long that it is not possible to follow it. Questions should be straight, brief and incisive.

Shri P. C. Borooah: I said that according to the study conducted by the Tuklai Experimental Station, by the system of vegetative propagation the tea crop can be increased by more than 50 per cent, whereas applied Economic Research study says that too much reliance should not be placed on that. If so, what is Government's reaction?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is all so complex. Vegetative propagation is only one of the methods of tea growing. There are many others like artificial irrigation which, as the hon. Member knows, was introduced recently, and other things like hybridisation which have raised the production of tea from 500 million lbs. to 780 million lbs. We are trying to reach the target of 900 million lbs.