

Shri Dasappa: When will the programme be completed and the port be ready for utilisation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As at present targetted both the ports are expected to be completed by 1966-67, that is, during the first year of the Fourth Plan.

Election to Panchayats and Panchayat Samities

*393. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experience of Mysore State shows that the multiple-member constituencies eliminate to a considerable extent the possibilities of seeking support of the electorate on the basis of community, caste or sub-caste for elections to Village Panchayats and Panchayat Samities; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to advise the State Governments to adopt the Mysore system by making suitable amendments to the Panchayati Raj Acts?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Multiple-member constituencies have been conceived by the Mysore State Government to provide a broader base and flexibility in elections. No specific enquiry has been undertaken by the State Government to find out whether this system eliminates the influence of community, caste and sub-caste in the elections to Village Panchayats and Panchayat Samities.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Is it not a fact that the small constituencies give fillip to sectarian appeal where the candidate can woo the electorate ignoring the people other than their own communities?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Some hon. Members do hold such opinion.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Do the Government feel it expedient to expand the constituency and make it a multiple-member constituency?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Different States are having different types of constituencies. The Ministry is contemplating upon setting up a study team to go into this matter.

Shri Kumaran: May I know whether the Centre has advised the State Governments to take steps to see that political parties do not interfere in panchayat elections?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it relevant?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think. It is only a suggestion for action.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether Government makes an effort to enquire from State Governments how far communalism in the States has played its role at the time of elections, whether panchayat elections or general elections?

Mr. Speaker: That is too general a question.

Indian Forest Service

*394. **Shri Oza:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to reconstitute the Indian Forest Service; and

(b) if so, what are its main features?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) and (b). This question relates to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Minister of Home Affairs will reply the same on the day allotted to that Ministry.

Medical facilities for Railway Employees

*395. **Shri Namblar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway administration are permitting employees to secure