

Improvement of Malnad Area

*908. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 388 on the 27th May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any reply from the Government of Mysore for the improvement of Malnad area; and

(b) if so, what are their recommendations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have provided a total sum of Rs. 222.24 lakhs in their Second Five Year Plan for the development of transport and communications in Malnad. Of this a provision of Rs. 51.38 lakhs has been made for 1957-58.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether the Government of India have accepted the establishment of a statutory body known as the Malnad Development Board to fulfil the aspirations of the Malnad people who have been urging for the development of that area for a long time?

Shri L. N. Mishra: This Board was recommended by the Ramanathan Committee constituted in 1950 by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Due to financial conditions, it was not possible to accept the recommendation for the constitution of this Board.

Shri Achar: May I know whether the Government will reconsider the question of setting up such a body?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): May I add, Sir, that although the Ramanathan Committee had recommended the establishment of such a Board, it was found that since such a Board would cut across four States in which Malnad area is distributed, it would not be proper to give it authority to incur expenditure. It was also felt that

since those States had already plans for the development of this area, not much useful purpose will be served by the setting up of such a body.

Shri Dasappa: I heard the hon. Minister saying that because the Malnad area was distributed among four different States, the Board was not found necessary. Now all these units have come into one State. Will he revise his opinion and constitute a Board?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Now the very basis for the constitution of such a board is not likely to arise because all the areas have come under one State.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manufacture of Marine Diesel Engines

*904. **Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to locate a plant for the manufacture of Marine Diesel engines at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The Government have invited offers from six foreign firms for establishing a plant to manufacture marine diesel engines in the country. The offers are awaited. No decision has yet been taken about the location of the plant.

Arrest of an Indian National in Pakistan

*907. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a person claiming to be associated with the Indian High Commission in Pakistan has been arrested by the Pakistan Police and Rs. 40,000 in Indian currency were found on his person;

(b) whether Government have enquired into this case; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?