

**Shri Sonavane:** May I know whether practical training has been included in the curriculum of the universities in respect of the Community Development Projects for the colleges?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** There is an apprenticeship scheme offered by the Ministry of Education under which every year a select number of students from every university is sent out to the Community Development areas for getting themselves acquainted with the work being done in the Community Development programme together with the staff of the universities

**Shri Raghbir Sahai:** From the answer given to this question it appears that four universities have agreed to include this item in their curriculum—education of Community Development programme. May I know from the hon Minister whether he has satisfied himself that the teachers who would take up this item of educating the pupils are trained enough and whether they would be able to do the job satisfactorily?

**Shri S. K. Dey:** I think that would be going far too beyond the prerogative of this Ministry although we shall make every effort to see that the Development Commissioners and others are associated with this programme to the extent that the universities ask for their assistance

#### Transport of Jute from Tripura

\*1318. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether any representation has been received so far by the Government to reduce the rate of freight charges on jute-transport by air lift in Tripura immediately; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to reduce the rate of freight charges on jute transport by air from Tripura to Calcutta?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri**): (a) No specific representation has been received for the reduction of freight rates on jute.

(b) Not for the present, Sir

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** May I know whether the Government are aware that the jute merchants of Tripura are facing great difficulties in transporting their jute outside Tripura because the Pakistan rail authorities could hardly supply them the requisite number of wagons and as such the stocks have accumulated and the merchants could hardly find any space to stock the jutes further and the prices of jute have gone down?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I am not aware of those difficulties, but the hon Member has asked regarding the freight rate. As I said, it has not increased, the freight rate remains the same. I remember that sometime back my colleague answered a question on this particular matter, and said that there was no congestion just at present

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** May I know whether it is a fact that Tripura has sent a recommendation to the Government of India for reducing the freight rates?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I am not aware of that, but there is at present no proposal to reduce the rates

**Shrimati Ila Falcchoudhuri:** May I know whether the Government have exploited the avenues of private companies doing this work whose rates may be much lower?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Yes, Sir. Recently an application by a private operator was made to us and we are considering it, not only we are considering it but in fact we have almost decided to give it to non-scheduled operators like companies

**Shri Rameshwar Tanti:** In view of the fact that very high rates are obtaining on the air routes, the cultivators get low prices for their jute.

Are the Government aware of that, and may I know whether there is any alternative arrangement to bring these things by rail via Pakistan territory?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I do not know. In fact, as I said, the rate has not been increased. It was Rs. 2|6|- per maund between Agartala and Calcutta. It remains the same and in so far as the question of rates from Tripura to Calcutta is concerned—and the question pertains to that—I might inform the House that our present rates from Tripura to Calcutta are lower than the rates provided for other places. The rates are ordinarily not less than 87 Naya paisa per ton mile whereas between Agartala and Calcutta the rate for jute works out to approximately 33 Naya paisa per ton mile. The rate is low. I do not think we can consider reducing it.

#### Paradip Port

\*1320. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 180 on the 15th November, 1957 in respect of Paradip Port and state—

(a) whether British Team was expected to visit Paradip Port in order to make an on-the-spot study of the project;

(b) whether a request to this effect was received from the Government of Orissa;

(c) if so, whether the team has since visited the port; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof.

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** (a) and (b). No, Sir

(c) and (d). Do not arise

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know the reaction of the Government of India to the proposal for the conversion of this port into a major port by the Government of Orissa?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** It was discussed only the day before yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker:** There has been a full debate on this matter and the House is aware of the position. Next question

#### Raw Jute

\*1321. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether low quality jute is sold between Rs 12|- to 15|- per maund in some parts of Bihar,

(b) if so, the steps Government are considering to arrange a reasonable price for the cultivators; and

(c) whether exports of such jute will be allowed to some extent?

**The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The low price received by the jute growers in some parts of Bihar is mainly due to the deterioration in the quality of the fibre as a result of scarcity of retting water caused by drought condition and it is difficult to arrange a higher price for the damaged variety

(c) No Sir. India is deficit in the supply of raw jute and it is not possible to allow its exports at present.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** May I know whether the Government realise that any such uneconomically low price will hamper the jute crop in a few years and whether they are taking some action to fix a minimum price for jute?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The Government is aware that the loss caused to the cultivators would discourage them from better cultivation and even cultivation of the same crop. But here the conditions and circumstances were beyond the control of Government.