

The Government of Japan deputed a team of experts on mining, railways and harbours to explore the possibilities of developing the export of iron ore from India to Japan on a long term basis. They have recently submitted their report to the Governments of Japan and India on the possibilities of export of iron ore through Vizag and Paradip Ports. The report is under examination.

Their report does not deal with iron ore from Dandeli via Karwar and Honawar Ports.

Another Japanese Mission is expected in Delhi shortly to negotiate the price formula for the export of iron ore to Japan.

Soil Conservation Scheme in Orissa

*470. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any additional grants are given to the Orissa Government for the implementation of the soil conservation scheme in the Tribal Areas of Orissa State.

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether any scheme has been sent by the Government of Orissa in this regard?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Soil Conservation Schemes in tribal areas are granted 100 per cent subsidy on works, contingent expenditure and work-charged-staff of which 75 per cent is borne by the Centre and the balance by the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir, for soil conservation on the Machkund basin during 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59.

Coastal Steamers in Kerala State

*471. Shri Vasudevan Nair: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Kerala Government about the non-calling of coastal steamers at Alleppey and other minor Ports in Kerala State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to persuade the coastal steamers to call at Alleppey and the other minor Ports?

The Minister of State in the Ministry Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter was taken up with the Indian Coastal Conference, Bombay several times in the past but the latter have regretted their inability to arrange for the steamers to call at Alleppey port since that port could not offer the minimum cargo of 500 tons per sailing which is required for the economical employment of vessels.

Decentralization in the Community Development Programme

*472. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from States about the implementations of National Development Council's decisions to decentralise the functioning of the National Extension Programme; and

(b) if so, the success achieved so far in this direction?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) The Conclusions and Recommendations of the Standing Committee of the National Development Council have been forwarded by the Planning Commission to State Governments, who will consider the proposals of the Balwantray Mehta Committee and keep the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Community Development informed.

(b) Does not arise.