

Artificial Rain

*892. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1671 on the 27th September, 1958, and state:

(a) whether the scheme to produce artificial rain by the installation of steam injectors during the monsoon season has been considered; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

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

(b) The scheme has been recommended by the Board of Research and the Advisory Board of the I.C.A.R. The scheme will now be placed before the Standing Finance Committee and the Governing Body of the Council in the last week of December, 1958 for allotment of funds.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know whether the Government proposes to send another study team abroad for this purpose?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know the total funds allotted for this scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The total funds that may be allotted come to about Rs. 10,700.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: As long as four years back, a team was sent to Australia—a team of experts—to study the clouds to produce artificial rain. May I know the result of the work of that expert team in Australia?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice for that question.

श्री भवत वर्मान : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि यह जो योजना स्वीकार की जा रही है, इसके अन्तर्गत एक इंच बारिश होने में कितना खर्चा बैठेगा ?

डा० पं० शा० बेशम्वर : जो खर्चा वर्चा है, उसका अमी तक कुछ अन्दाजा नहीं लगाया

गया है। मगर प्राशा है कि जितनी बारिश होगी, उससे कम खर्चा आयेगा।

Shri Sampath: May I know whether the method adopted by the Centre for producing artificial rain is different from the method being adopted by the Government of Madras?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This method is injecting something in the clouds... (Interruptions). (An hon. Member: Something!).

Shri Raghunath Singh: Everything is in the clouds.

An Hon. Member: Is it not steam? (Interruptions.).

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. It is steam.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the method adopted by the Madras Government and whether that method is different from the one that is adopted by the Centre.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think that since this gentleman is coming from Madras—the man who has proposed the scheme is Dr. Savur, ex-Director, Regional Meteorological Centre, Madras—I believe it is the same man and so probably the same method.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have worked out the cost of producing artificial rain and come to any conclusion about the cost for one square mile inch of artificial rain?

Mr. Speaker: He is not able to say about one inch, what to talk of one square mile inch. Let us go to the next question.

Dues from China

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*893. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sum is still due from the Chinese Government relating to "Overseas Communications Services";

(b) if so, the amount thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken for its recovery?

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

(b) Rs. 1,29,230.

(c) The matter has been taken up with the Chinese Government through the Indian Embassy in Peking. The Indian Embassy has intimated that until the Chinese Government come to some decision in regard to similar claims by other Governments they are not likely either to reject or admit the Indian claim.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know since when this amount is due from the Chinese Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The dues pertain to the period December 1948 to 24th May, 1949.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know on what account this sum was due?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This was on account of telegraph charges for traffic handled on the Bombay-Shanghai-Bombay direct radio telegraph service for the period I have just mentioned.

Shri Assar: If this amount is not recovered in a fixed time, will the Government stop giving facilities to China for overseas communications services?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The amount is deposited with the Cable and Wireless Limited, London. In fact, they have assured us that after the United Kingdom have taken a decision in this behalf they will give that over to us or hold it in account for us.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether any steps have been taken to realise this amount from the Chinese Government in Taiwan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Our initial claim was in fact made to the Formosa Government. They said that they have intimated to the Cable and Wireless

Limited to settle the accounts with us. Subsequently, this particular amount was disputed and a claim was made by the Peking Government in regard to it. It is because of these conflicting claims that this amount has not yet been settled.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether over and above these dues there are any dues for direct radio telephone services?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of that.

'Rabi Drive'

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Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
 *894. **Shri Damani:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have received any reports from the State Governments regarding the special drive for Rabi cultivation; and

(b) what is the nature of the reports and result of the campaign?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). The State Governments have not furnished progress reports so far. However, a statement giving the progress made so far in the Rabi Campaign, based on the papers and reports available with the Ministry, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 129.]

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether it is a fact that it was not possible to supply even the seed required for sowing, in Rajasthan even 50 per cent. of the requirement was not met and in U.P. there was bungling in this Rabi Campaign which was talked about in the U.P. Assembly?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The proposal is to supply, as far as possible,