

Shri Achar: May I know whether this line is in connection with exploitation of mineral wealth or for the development of any port?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No

Shri Dasaratha Deb: May I know how much money has already been spent on this work, and when this work is expected to be completed?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: For the final location survey, Rs 75,000 have been allotted, and as I said, the work will be taken up after this rainy season is over.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: First, we were told that the general survey and the acquisition of the land would be completed during the Second Plan period, and the installation of the railway line would be made during the Third Plan period. Now, the hon. Minister says that the general survey and the acquisition of land would be taken up after the next rainy season is over. That contradicts the previous assurance. I want to know what the correct position is?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am sorry there is a slight misunderstanding in the mind of the hon. Member. I have stated that the preliminary engineering survey has been done. Now, the present study is for the final location survey. That is being done. As a matter of fact, it has been taken up as a special case, and advance action is being taken in the Second Five Year Plan itself.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether the installation of the railway line would be completed in the early part of the Third Five Year Plan period?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I hope it will be taken up in the early part of the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Achar: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is gone now; after that, three questions have been put already. Now, next question.

Steel Allotment to Bombay

*1059 **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that steel allotted to Bombay State for agricultural purposes is not commensurate with the demand of steel in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the quantity of steel supplied to Bombay State under agricultural quota during 1958-59?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b) Due to inadequate production of iron and steel in the country and difficult foreign exchange position only a limited quantity was made available for allotment for agricultural purposes. The Bombay Government's demand for iron and steel for agricultural purposes could, therefore, be met only partially.

(c) During 1958-59, a quantity of 11,533 tons was supplied.

Shri Pangarkar: May I know the quantity of steel proposed to be supplied during the current year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The total demand from the various people in 1958-59 has been 424,000 tons, and the concerned Ministry, namely the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel has allotted us only 1,14,000 tons, which is not even 25 per cent of the total demand, out of that, we have already despatched 55,000 tons to the various States.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know how far Government were able to supply the requirements of the agriculturists, in regard to iron and steel, to the other States?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We could supply only about 22 per cent of the total requirements to these States, because the concerned Ministry is not able to give us more because of shortage of steel and shortage of foreign exchange.

Shri Ranga: Is it not a fact that as a result of this, blackmarketing is taking place, and the peasants are obliged to pay inordinately high prices for agricultural implements containing iron and steel?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes; whenever there is acute shortage of any material, then there are generally other ways of getting it such as blackmarketing and other means. That is the reason why we are impressing upon the concerned Ministry that since implements form a basic necessity for the farmers, we should get more quota and we were able to succeed, and we are succeeding, and we are getting increased quota, and we would be able to meet the requirements then.

Shri Ranga: Is it not a fact that this has been a long-standing complaints during all these twelve years of these controls, that the peasants have been allotted or the people on the agricultural side have been allotted only 25 per cent or in any case not more than 33½ per cent of their requirements?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This is not a long-standing complaint. Whenever the prices of steel in the open market go down, then the farmers will not demand much from us; but whenever steel prices in the open market go up, then there is more demand from the agriculturists.

Shri Ranga: It has been so for twelve years.

Shri Keshava: Is it as a result of the policy of Government to improve agriculture and to give top most priority to it that this small quota of steel is being allotted to the Agriculture Ministry?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are pressing for more and more quota for the Agriculture Ministry, and I hope we shall be able to succeed in getting the quota from the concerned Ministry.

Shri C. D. Pande: In view of the fact that steel will now be manufactured by our factories within this year, will Government consider the advisability of allotting more steel to agriculture, because that is the most important item of our national activity today?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I too hope so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a suggestion

Shri Supakar: How is it that though there is a shortage of steel in the open market, yet plenty of steel and other iron materials are available in the blackmarket for very high prices, and there is no shortage of them practically anywhere?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I request the hon Member to put this question to the concerned Ministry

Rural Electrification in Delhi

*1069. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 330 on the 16th February, 1959 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in the scheme of electrification of the villages in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that villagers are indifferent towards using electricity in villages where it has already reached, due to which Government anticipates substantial losses on this scheme; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to popularise its use in Delhi villages and avoid such losses?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The total number of villages programmed to be electrified in the Union territory of Delhi during the Second Five Year Plan, is 53. Out of these, the following 10 villages were