

(d) whether any damage has occurred as a result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Cultivation of Paddy

***904. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee to organise the use of certain new varieties of paddy which can withstand floods and stagnant water; and

(b) if so, where these new varieties of paddy have been experimented upon?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Constitution of the Committee has been finalised only recently and it will shortly start work. In the meantime certain successful trials of this variety of paddy have been made in the reservoirs of the D.V.C. project.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any other areas have been chosen to introduce this type of paddy?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We intend to use it wherever it is possible to experiment with it.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : पैडी की नई किसमें कहाँ से मंगाई जा रही हैं और क्या उनके उपयोग के लिए किसी विशेष तरकीब की आवश्यकता होती है ?

डा० पं० शा० देशमुख : ये सब वैराटीज हिन्दुस्तान में ही पायी जाती हैं । इनमें क्या संशोधन करके उनको अच्छा बनाया जा सके इसकी तरकीब सोची जा रही है ।

Shri Tyagi: What is exactly the use of a committee in this matter of growing paddy? Will the Committee grow paddy? What are the functions of this Committee? I am surprised.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can straightway ask if the Ministers grow paddy.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, there are many aspects of growing paddy and it is not merely seeing paddy grown somewhere. This is a special variety. This is meant to be grown in lands where the water stagnates and remains for a long time. We want to introduce these varieties and find out the proper varieties and propagate their use. We also intend to grow another crop along with paddy we shall grow some fish crop also.

Shri Tyagi: What is the committee required to do? What are the terms of reference of that committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice if the details are to be given. This is a committee of experts, first and foremost. They will find out what particular varieties are suitable for what type of lands, whether any new varieties can be evolved, what is the yield and how it could be increased, what are the fertilisers required, and so on.

Shri Tyagi: May I take it that it is a research committee of some scholars who will make some research into it? Or is it that research has already been done and this paddy is only to be propagated?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is investigation leading to research. Some of these people are scientists themselves and they will also do research, but we also want to find out the problems on which researches would be necessary. Then they will undertake the research.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack carried on this research and if so, what is the result of this research?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have now come to the conclusion that in spite of the fact that we have got a very fine institute at Cuttack, there are many aspects of growing paddy which require detailed consideration and more

specific research. That is the reason why we have appointed more than one committee to look into the different aspects of paddy cultivation.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Once the hon. Minister gave a reply here that he saw some paddy on which the boys were dancing in China. What about experimenting with that sort of paddy so that our boys may also dance here on paddy?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is no paddy on which anybody can dance. The Chinese claim that they can grow the crops so thick that human beings can stand on them; it has nothing to do with the varieties of paddy.

Mr. Speaker: Our experience is that wherever the stack is thick, the grain is small; the stack eats away the nutrition. I do not know whether anybody will be satisfied with stacks so that the children may dance on them, though they may be hungry.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I explain, Sir? Dancing is not done because of the strength of the stack but because of the intensity of the growth of the plants.

Mr. Speaker: Even then what I have said is there. Very well. The age of exaggeration is not over.

Indian Airlines Corporation

*907. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to transfer seven stations of the Indian Airlines Corporation in Assam to private agencies; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this step?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) and (b). The Indian Airlines Corporation are reviewing the feasibility of entrusting the functioning of some offices to Agents at certain stations including a few in Assam where direct functioning is not economical or administratively convenient.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Do the Government think that there are possibilities of improvement in transferring these stations to private people?

Shri Mohiuddin: The Indian Airlines Corporation is not considering the question of improvement. This is only a proposal for decreasing its own expenditure so that the total expenditure incurred by the I.A.C. is economised.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know how this decrease in expenditure is going to be effected—whether by cutting down the staff or by any other means?

Shri Mohiuddin: It is proposed to give a contract for the services to be rendered by private agencies at certain places where the work is not heavy and is very light. The question of employment does not come in here, and as far as possible, the present employees will be absorbed in the new agencies.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Is it not a fact that some of the private agencies have made food dropping and thus have supplied food in the NEFA area up to something like 1,490 tons and earned a lot of foreign exchange also, and in view of this fact, may I know whether they will be given some of the unsheduled routes?

Shri Mohiuddin: The main question is about the transfer of stations and the serving at the air-ports as far as the carrying of passengers from the air-port to the city or the town is concerned. The question is not concerned with the air-droppings.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether such a transfer is going to take place in Tripura also?

Shri Mohiuddin: I am not yet aware of it. The question is under consideration.

Shri Basumatari: May I know which are the stations that are going to be transferred to the private agencies?

Shri Mohiuddin: I have just stated that this is under consideration.