

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 7, 1961/
Agrahayana 16, 1883 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Agro-Economic Centre

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*646. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:

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

(a) whether an institution to be known as Agro-Economic Centre has been set up;

(b) if so, the precise nature of its functions;

(c) whether any programme in this regard has been drawn up; and

(d) if so, the important features of such a programme?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (d). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 56].

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that seven Research centres have been set up so far. I would like to know whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up other centres in other States where these centres have not been so far set up.

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Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think if we have planned out any definite scheme for setting up more centres as yet, although we are so keen on expansion of agro-economic research which was neglected for a long time.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Seven centres have been started, I would like to know what is the basis on which the centres have been chosen while other places have not been chosen. What is the basis on which the selection has been made?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think the very reading of the names will make it apparent on what ground the choice has been made.

Shri C. D. Pande: What are they?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These are the seven places. My hon. friend has asked for the names, Delhi University, Delhi, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Poona, Madras University, Madras, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan (West Bengal), Agricultural College, Gwalior, (Madhya Pradesh), Agricultural College, Jorhat, for Assam and Anand for Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: One of the functions of this centre seems to be, as given in the statement, to study the price changes in rural economy. May I know whether any research has been conducted so far in any of these centres on this particular aspect of the problem, and if so whether the Government of India have got anything to say about that and whether they will be acting on them?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: All these centres have produced a lot of literature and carried out lot of investigations. It would be impossible for me offhand to give particulars on any particular subject.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I was referring to price changes in rural economy—item 2, part (c).

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Even so, the results of the investigations are contained in a lot of papers. It is not possible for me to say.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly read the report. The hon. Minister will make them available in the Library.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are too bulky.

Mr. Speaker: For the Library? I shall provide sufficiently big almirahs.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is likely to be a huge thing. It will be better if I were asked to supply to any hon. Member who is interested in a particular investigation, that may be supplied.

Mr. Speaker: All these reports are intended for the general public. Hon. Members will read them. I will bear all the burden. The hon. Minister might try to provide a copy here for the benefit of the Members.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know whether the Government proposes to include Rudrapur Agricultural University which has been established under the aegis of the T.C.M. which is supposed to be the biggest institution of that line in the country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is a new University, undoubtedly a different kind of University from the rest. We will consider if it is possible. There is no such scheme at present.

Shri Radha Raman: The hon. Minister, in his statement, has mentioned certain centres which are to be opened. What is the amount of grant which the Government is giving

to the centres and what will be the basis of sanctioning the grants?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I must ask for notice. There is a provision of Rs. 57 lakhs for the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: It has been stated that these centres will conduct enquiries regarding problems arising from the Centre or in the States. I would like to know whether the Governments of the States and the Centre will participate in the expenditure involved in these centres.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Mostly, the Centre spends.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब यू० पी० एक एग्रीकल्चुरिस्ट प्राविस है और इतना बड़ा प्राविस है, तो फिर इन अठारह सेंटरों में से यू० पी० में कोई सेंटर क्यों नहीं खोला गया ।

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: India is an agricultural country. I am sure its turn may also come sometime.

Mr. Speaker: He will establish one more. Next question.

Power Supply Failure in Delhi

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*648. { Shri Harish Chandra
Mathur;
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the statement made in Lok Sabha on the 17th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the Committee, to investigate the causes of power failure in Delhi and suggest measures to ensure an adequate and reliable supply of energy to the consumers, has been appointed;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has completed investigation and submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what interim measures; if any, have been taken to improve the situation?