

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of any land acquisition proceeding having been stopped. We have issued no instructions to that effect.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to reports appearing in a certain section of the Press that perhaps the site of the second ship-building yard will be shifted to Goa?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Such reports are only traceable to certain communist party sources and none else. As a matter of fact there is no such intention of shifting the second shipyard site from Cochin to Goa.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether the new loan to purchase ships will any way affect the establishment or progress of the ship-building yard?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Just as there is no connection between the budget of the kitchen and of the eater, similarly there is no connection between a shipping company and ship-building yard as such.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether the required land has been acquired or not?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Proceedings for acquisition are in progress. So far as Government land is concerned that has already been largely acquired and the rest is being acquired.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know the nature of the negotiations that are going on: whether they refer to the technical aspect or financial aspect?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They refer to the technical, consultation, aspect of the whole question. We want to find a good and suitable firm which can help us in providing the technical know-how, so far as the construction is concerned.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what is the approximate cost of the project and how the cost is to be met?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The approximate cost is about Rs. 19 crores as has been brought out in the U.K. Mission

Report and it will be met from the resources available to the country as laid down in the Third Plan.

Shri D. C. Sharma rose—

Mr. Speaker: Is there possibility of a ship-building yard in the Punjab?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Not in Punjab, but decided not in Hoshiarpur!

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether Government expect the construction of the ship-building yard to be completed before the Third Five Year Plan is over?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We shall expedite the project as best as we can. In fact, we would like to have it completed, as best as we can, by the end of the Third Plan. One cannot be too sure about the factors that may arise from time to time.

Agricultural Training Course

*160. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major weaknesses highlighted by him in respect of Agricultural Training Courses and administrations; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve matters?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Rr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 1].

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: While congratulating the Deputy Minister on his forthright and very realistic appraisal of the deficiencies of his Ministry, may I know whether this statement is based on his personal knowledge and experience or as a result of certain studies and reports; when did this wisdom dawn upon the Ministry?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The sources are the two that have been mentioned

by the hon. Member, both the sources, and certain steps have been taken in this direction. They have been catalogued in the reply that has been placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In this statement it has been mentioned that "the product of these institutions is more a disaster than a help to agriculture". May I know what amounts the State Governments and the Central Government are spending on these institutions whose products are more a disaster than a help to agriculture?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is a well known fact that there has been considerable expansion in the field of agricultural education in recent years, and the expansion has been to a certain extent at the expense of quality. It was that aspect of the matter that was emphasised by the hon. Minister when he spoke at the Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. So, certain steps have been taken.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Education at its Fourth Session discussed the question and made certain recommendations. It has recommended the appointment of an accreditation body for raising the standards and it is intended that this body should visit the agricultural and veterinary colleges at least once in three years and submit reports to the Indian Council of Agricultural Education regarding the standards of education and the teaching facilities. There has also been an expert committee appointed to draw up minimum standards to which the agricultural and veterinary colleges should conform. Model syllabi for agricultural and veterinary college courses have also been drawn up.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What has not been stated in this statement which has been laid on the Table of the House but what is there in the

speech of the hon. Minister is about the ivory-tower existence of many of our scientists. What has brought into existence these ivory towers, and what is being done to pull them down?

Shri A. M. Thomas: To quote from a long speech one sentence or another out of context and then make much of it may not be quite fair or proper.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The whole speech is very consistent.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The speech is consistent, do doubt.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is very consistent and it is nothing but all this criticism, and I am asking a specific question about this aspect that our scientists who should give the benefit of their knowledge to the field are not giving that benefit to the field but are in the ivory tower. What has put these scientists in the ivory tower, and what efforts are now being made to see that the efforts made by the scientists will be utilised in the field?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to the efforts, I have placed them on the Table of the Sabha and also mentioned the steps that are being taken, such as, the appointment of an accreditation body. I have also mentioned the fact that an expert committee has been appointed to draw up the standards to which the agricultural and veterinary colleges should conform. What else is Government to do, I do not understand.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: In view of the fact that the education and training being given in these institutions and the actual practice in the fields are quite different may I know if any steps are being taken to co-ordinate the actual traditional working of our farms by the cultivators and the training that is being given?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The expert committee which has been appointed to draw up minimum standards has prescribed that there should be a farm attached to an agricultural college

and it must have a minimum 100 acres representing the typical agricultural practices of that particular region, and that with regard to veterinary colleges there should be a dairy attached to the college and it should have a minimum of ten milch animals with separators and churns and other dairy equipment to match. If my hon. friend wants more details I am prepared to furnish them.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: Will that expert committee contain some actual cultivators also or only ivory-tower scientists?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Even in this accreditation body the intention of the Government is that it should be a small body of not more than seven members consisting mostly of persons of eminence in the academic fields. It will be preferable to have a Chairman with agricultural bias. The accreditation body may set up inspection teams for inspection of colleges for accreditation. This is the proposal.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know the period of the training course and whether after receiving the training any degree or diploma will be given to the students; and also whether agriculturists only will be allowed for this course or anybody?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is not possible to lay down the second condition. With regard to the other matter I think the course extends to four to five years.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I know if the expert body that has been appointed has been asked to take into account and put in the syllabus the nutritional needs of the country, so that the agriculturists will know how to promote those types of agricultural production by which the nutritional needs of the country can be met?

Shri A. M. Thomas: These are all being contemplated by the agricultural colleges; and in the proposed Agricultural University the idea that has just now been mentioned by the

hon. Member has been borne in mind and it has been laid down that the Commission which has been set up should draw up a project for these Agricultural Universities: they have recommended, first of all, the setting up of a nuclei comprising a college of agriculture and a college of veterinary science to which due course should be added a college of home science and a college of agricultural engineering and technology. This Home Science College will certainly take that aspect into account.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I wanted to know whether any degree or diploma will be given after the training and, if so, what will it be.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Certainly a diploma or degree will be given. The degree will be B.Sc., B.V.Sc. and B.Sc. (Agriculture).

Shrimati Renuka Ray: My question has not really been answered. I am not asking whether a separate college for home science or nutrition will be set up. I am asking whether the agriculturist, the main who is trained as agriculturist will learn about the nutritional needs of human beings so that he will be able to promote such agricultural products as will meet those needs.

Shri A. M. Thomas: That aspect has been referred to by the hon. Minister in his address which has been referred to in the main question. He has said that we are nowhere near achieving a nutritional balance in our national diet and the problems of cheap and adequate supply of protective food produced, stored and distributed under hygienic and sound conditions are still looming large and these aspects have also to be borne in mind.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: In respect of the assistance given for a large number of years to those institutions who have not come anywhere near the standard desired by the Ministry, may I know whether they have withdrawn the Central assistance from any of these institutions or

even indicated to them that they will withdraw the same if they do not come up to the standard within a particular time?

Shri A. M. Thomas: If it does not come to the standard laid down by the accreditation body, if the institution fails to comply with the recommendations, the proposal is that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research should be at liberty to withhold any assistance that is being given to the institution, withdraw the membership of the institution from the Indian Council of Agricultural Education and circulate the list of such institutions to the Union and State Public Service Commissions or other service selection boards for information as regards the defects.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: But have any steps been taken.....

Mr. Speaker: Next question. We have spent nearly twenty minutes on this one question.

Class I Engineers in Roads Wing of Transport Ministry

*162. **Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of Class I Engineers in the Bridges Section of the Roads Wing of the Transport Ministry at present;

(b) how many major bridges are to be built by the Roads Wing during the Third Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether it is a fact that posts for fifty new Class I Engineers have been sanctioned for Bridges Section recently;

(d) whether it is also a fact that out of 19 major bridges to be built, the designs etc. of 12 have already been completed and that designs of only seven remaining bridges remain to be completed; and

(e) if so, the reasons for posting 50 more Class I Engineers for a work which has nearly been completed and might be fully completed before new appointments are made?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II. annexure No. 2].

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: In the statement it has been given that 35 bridges were under construction previously and in the new scheme 19 new bridges are going to be constructed. There were only 17 Class I engineers doing this work and fifty more are being posted. May I know whether, when we have such a dearth of technical hands, so many engineers are needed for completing these nineteen bridges?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In fact we have been suffering from an acute shortage of qualified engineers to execute our programmes and other schemes in the Second and Third Plans. We have been feeling this for the last two or three years and we have been trying to have the staff increased. It is after a great deal of effort that this has been done, particularly because we have got to execute programmes under the I.D.A. (the International Development Association) assistance given to us.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: Has this new staff been appointed or is it still to be appointed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They have to be appointed. Steps are being taken to appoint them.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : स्टेटमेंट में बताया गया है कि इंटरनेशनल डिवेलपमेंट एसोसिएशन से कुछ कर्जा लिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितना कर्जा लिया गया है और किन शर्तों पर लिया गया है और कब तक उसकी अदायगी की जायेगी ?

श्री राज बहादुर : इंटरनेशनल डिवेलपमेंट एसोसिएशन से जो कर्जा लिया गया है, मैं