

Mr. Speaker: That is also a suggestion for action. We are dealing with the import ban here.

Sulphate of Ammonia

*1544. **Shri Ball Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 700 and its supplementaries on the 31st May, 1957 and state whether Government are considering the reduction of the price of Sulphate of Ammonia?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): No Sir. The revision will be considered by the beginning of next year.

Shri Ball Reddy: May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that due to delay in the supply of sulphate of ammonia in sufficient quantities, agriculturists have to purchase it in the black market at exorbitant rates?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No, Sir. There is some delay in the supply of this imported fertilizer because of the Suez crisis and steamers arriving late, but of whatever is available inside the country proper distribution is being made.

Shri Nanjappa: Is it a fact that tea plantations in South India are not supplied with sufficient quantity of sulphate of ammonia and are supplied with other fertilizers which are not useful and do not stand the hill climate?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are able to meet their demands adequately because their demands are very little, less than four or five thousand tons. We have met their demands.

Shri Wodeyar: In view of its shortage, will Government consider the desirability of subsidising this product in the interest of increased production of foodgrains?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The whole scheme is run on a no-profit no-loss basis and we are not subsidising fertilizers.

Shri Ranga: When would you be reconsidering the price schedule of sulphate of ammonia?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That will be considered in the beginning of next year when the landed cost may cost us less.

RE. STARRED QUESTION NO. 1541

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Sir, may I, with your permission, supplement the answers I gave to the supplementaries to Question No. 1541† regarding payment of royalty by Messrs. P. C. Ray & Company? The position was that the Government have made an arrangement with Messrs. P. C. Ray & Company for the payment of royalty of Rs. 50,000 for each shipment. When the question of non-payment later came up it was arranged that Government will temper its recovery of royalty and the Company will pay Rs. 2 lakhs out of the proceeds of the shipping towards the wages of labour by the end of the first week of September and the rest of the payment will be made shortly.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mechanised Port in Hooghly

*1543. **Shri Bimal Ghose:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether, and if so, what action has been taken on a non-official resolution adopted by the other House on the 7th December, 1956 about the feasibility of developing a fully mechanised coal and ore port on the west bank of the lower Hooghly?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A preliminary technical examinations has been made to determine a suitable site for the location of the proposed port. This revealed the necessity for carrying out fresh hydrological experiments and the collection of further data regarding erosion effects, frequency and magnitude of bore tides etc. This is being done.

Plant Protection

*1545. Shri R. Narayanasamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cardamom plants are dying out in Devicolam Taluq Kerala State, in Kodaikanal Taluq Madurai District and other parts in the Madras State; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Government of India in the matter under Plant Protection Schemes?

The Minister for Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 79).

Medical Delegation to U.S.S.R.

*1546. Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Medical delegation visited the U.S.S.R.;

(b) if so, whether the delegation has submitted any report and made any recommendations; and

(c) the action taken on these recommendations?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The suggestions made by the Indian Delegation were brought to the notice of the State Governments.

Rajasthan Canal

*1547. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative set-up has been finalised to implement the scheme of Rajasthan Canal; and

(b) the progress expected to be made during the year 1957-58?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The project was sanctioned in July, 1957 and the preliminaries are in hand. It would be possible to give a fairly accurate estimate only when the administrative set up is finalised and the staff is in position.

Agrarian Re-organisation

*1548. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level discussions are going to be held in Mysore on agrarian re-organisation; and

(b) if so, whether representatives of all political parties will be invited to attend these talks?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The All India Sarva Seva Sangh has convened a conference at Mysore on 21st and 22nd September, 1957 with a view to discuss matters relating to the Gramdan movement.

(d) So far as is known, a number of leading personalities; belonging to various parties or to none, have been invited.

Dredger at Kandla Port

*1549. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dredger allotted to Kandla Port is unworkable;

(b) if so, what is the defect;