

Mr. Speaker: I think it will be better if he puts a separate question for the details.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yesterday our Minister has given it, Sir.

Shri Chinaria: May I know, Sir, what was the date from which the Grow More Food Campaign was put on a war footing and what time did it take the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to get at the idea that dissemination of agricultural information was necessary?

Mr. Speaker: Can the hon. Minister give that information?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No, Sir.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether the cost of production in these farms forms any basis for the fixation of prices by Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I want notice for that.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know, Sir, how many of these farms are self-supporting?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): They are experimental farms and they are not expected to be self-supporting.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the total expenditure on them?

Shri Kidwai: These experimental farms are attached to different institutions and if the hon. Member wants information about any, it can be given.

Shri B. N. Misra: May we know whether the experiment carried out in these farms have in any way affected the growing of crops in our country?

Shri Kidwai: They are expected to do so.

FAMINE CODE

*490. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the Government of India have taken to implement the statement made by the Minister of Food on the 17th September, 1952 that the Famine Code should be amended to suit the present chronic famine conditions of the country;

(b) whether any emergency measure has been taken or is proposed to be taken to meet the needs of the situation till the Famine Code is not finally amended; and

(c) whether the Government of India have collected detailed facts re-

garding the number and percentage of people deserving the benefit of the Famine Code and if so, what are the detailed facts?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (c). Every State has a separate Famine Code of its own and the question of amending these Codes is a State subject and not a Central subject. The statement made by Dr. Deshmukh was intended to focus the attention of the State Governments to the need for amending those Codes so that they may cater for the present day needs.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know whether the Government have received any reports from the State Governments in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: For amending the Famine Code? It is a matter entirely within their jurisdiction. They can change it as they like.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: Are the Government aware that in many parts of West Bengal people on the verge of starvation are not getting either gratuitous relief or test works due to stringency of the Famine Code and, if so, what steps have been recommended?

Mr. Speaker: It is for the West Bengal Assembly

Shri K. K. Basu: Does the Government propose to have a uniform Code throughout India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Needs of each part of the country are different from those of other parts of the country.

THEFT OF COAL FROM RAILWAY WAGONS FROM KATNI.

*481. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that coal is stolen from Railway wagons at Katni on the Central Railways?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, since how long these thefts are going on?

(c) What steps have Government taken to stop these thefts?

(d) How many persons are involved in these thefts?

(e) Is it a fact that 8 tons of coal have been recovered from the houses of some persons?

(f) Are they connected with the Railway in any manner?