

**ELECTRIFICATION OF SUBURBAN RAILWAYS OF CALCUTTA**

\*478. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for electrification of the suburban railways of Calcutta; and

(b) if so, (i) which of the lines are to be taken up;

(ii) when is the work expected to be undertaken and to be completed; and

(iii) what is the estimated expenditure?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes.

(b) (i) A decision of the lines to be taken up for electrification will be taken on the results of the survey to be made during 1953-54.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) The cost will depend on the sections finally selected for electrification.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if Government has any idea whether all the lines within the area around Calcutta will be taken up?

**Shri Alagesan:** The suburban sections of Howrah and Sealdah Divisions are taken up.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Up to what area from Calcutta or from Howrah?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not have the exact limit.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know when this investigation or survey is likely to be completed and when the actual work will be started?

**Shri Alagesan:** The survey is proposed to be carried out next year.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May we know if there is any body set up to undertake this job of investigation?

**Shri Alagesan:** The survey will be done in the usual manner by the Eastern Railway.

**RUST**

\*480. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the approximate quantity of foodgrains lost each year owing to rust?

(b) Have Government taken any steps to control the growth of cereal rust?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce the growing of rust resistant varieties of foodgrains?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) to (c). I would invite the hon. Member's attention to the information given on 23rd February 1953 in reply to Starred Question No. 241 put by Shri Barman.

Besides wheat, other foodgrains like barley, *Jowar*, *bajra*, smaller millets, lentil and gram are also affected by rusts. The causal organism in each is, however, different.

No estimate has been made of the damage caused except in regard to wheat. Co-ordinated research is already in progress for breeding rust resistant varieties.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether all the State Governments have started this rust controlling work?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Not all the State Governments, but a good many of them are trying to grow rust resistant varieties.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या यह बात सही है कि मध्य प्रदेश के कृषि विभाग ने गेहूँ के दो इस तरह के बीज पैदा किये हैं कि जिन में रस्ट (rust) बहुत कम लगती है और क्या गवर्नमेंट को यह बात मालूम है कि यह बीज अभी इतने तैयार नहीं हुए हैं कि जिस से वह काफ़ी तादाद में लोगों को दिये जा सकें ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** यह बात सच साबित हुई है कि जहाँ हम अच्छे बीज उगाते हैं, वहाँ वह काफ़ी मात्रा में नहीं मिलती।

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या सरकार इस बात का प्रयत्न कर रही है कि यह बीज काफ़ी तादाद में तैयार हो सकें ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** जी हाँ, इस के लिये सब जगह प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है।

**Shri Gopala Rao:** May I know whether any useful researches are undertaken in this direction by our institutes?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir, and very useful results have been obtained also.

#### PRICES FOR PEPPER CROP

\*481. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India have made any efforts to get better prices for the pepper crop in view of the estimated shortage in the production of pepper for 1953 in the Travancore-Cochin State?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** Production figures for the 1952-53 crop are not yet available. The decline in internal prices in the recent past has resulted largely from international factors. Internal prices of commodities largely exported are difficult to maintain if the international prices are also looking down. A Cash Crops Inquiry Committee has been appointed to examine the various aspects of production and marketing of certain important dollar earning crops including pepper with a view to ascertaining if any centralised direction is necessary and feasible.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether any estimates have been made about the shortage in the production of pepper?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I could not say.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know whether Government are making any endeavour to give any assistance to the cultivators for its development, at least by spending a portion of the amount which the Government are getting by way of export duty on pepper on scientific research or things like that?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I could not give any detailed information on the point.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether it is a fact that U.S. trade circles have sent complaints to the Government of India that the pepper exported from this country is subject to adulteration and may I also know whether this sort of propaganda through allegations is conducted in order to get the prices of pepper reduced?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Such complaints would be referred to my colleague in charge of Commerce and Industry. It has not come to our notice.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether the Ministry has made any inquiries through the Indian Embassy in U.S. in this respect?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No, Sir, we have not.

**Shri Kelappan:** Is it under the contemplation of Government to establish a Pepper Board similar to the Tea or Coffee Board?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Not so far.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether any of the organisations of the cultivators of pepper have asked for help, and if so, whether any help has been rendered to them?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have no information here.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We cannot go into the whole gamut.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know the quantity of pepper produced in the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have got the prices and particulars of production. It is a fairly long statement.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It will be laid on the Table.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know the countries to which we export our produce?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It does not arise out of this question.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know whether the Government propose to set up a production expansion fund for pepper?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** This question will arise when we get the report of this inquiry Committee which has been appointed now.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether Government have taken any steps to see that the actual producer of pepper gets the maximum price?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That is always the endeavour of the Ministry of Agriculture.