

they are allowed to raise their prices, to the price of North Indian sugar plus railway freight.

#### ORANGE PLANTATIONS IN WYNAD, COORG AND NILGIRIS

\*510. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large orange plantations in Wynad, Coorg and the Nilgiris are affected by an unknown disease and becoming extinct;

(b) whether the crops in other parts of India are affected by this disease; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to arrest the menace?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes. 'Decline' or 'Die-Back' of mandarin oranges is a serious problem in Wynad, Coorg and the Nilgiris where deaths of trees have been occurring in large numbers.

(b) This disease also occurs in the Malnad areas of the Mysore State and a similar disease occurs in parts of Bombay and Hyderabad States.

(c) Investigations on the nature of the diseases and its control in Wynad were carried out (as a joint scheme of the Madras Government and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1948-51) and it was found that the disease was due to a lack of proper attention to the cultural and manurial aspects and to faulty location of orchards. Proper attention to the cultural and manurial aspects as well as adoption of control measures against other diseases and pests have been recommended as an overall measure to improve the mandarin orange industry in Wynad.

2. The I.C.A.R. has recently sanctioned a co-ordinated scheme for citrus die-back disease at a cost of Rs. 5,46,800/- for a period of 5 years with effect from 1-4-53 in view of the seriousness of this disease. Under this scheme a Central Station will be established at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to deal with the fundamental aspects of micro-element nutrition of plants, with two regional stations, one for Coorg and Wynad area and the other for Hyderabad, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. The regional stations will investigate the nature of citrus die-back disease under local conditions and the methods of controlling the disease.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS INDUSTRY

\*511. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the steps taken and proposed to be taken for improving the agricultural implements industry?

(b) What are the recommendations of the three day conference of agricultural engineers in various States, and representatives of various firms manufacturing agricultural implements in the country which was held in the second week of January, 1953 at Delhi?

(c) Have any of the recommendations been found acceptable to Government?

(d) If so, what are the recommendations and what steps are being taken to implement them?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) So far as popularisation of improved agricultural implements are concerned, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently sanctioned a scheme at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at a cost of Rs. 1,11,000/- for the manufacture of approved agricultural implements for distribution and demonstration in the States and the introduction of improved agricultural implements, from one part of the country to another.

The State Governments have also been informed that high priority to schemes for research in agricultural implements will be given by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. As regards steps proposed, attention is invited to replies to parts (b), (c) and of the question.

(b) to (d). A statement giving briefly the recommendations of the Conference and action taken thereon is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 16.] The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has accepted all the recommendations which will be implemented to the extent funds become available.

#### Short Notice Questions and Answers

##### INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

**Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the influenza epidemic that swept England, France and other European countries is spreading towards East, has reached upto Egypt and is likely to come to India also?