

COMMITTEE ON MANURES AND FERTILIZERS

*2159. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have appointed a Committee of Experts on Manures and Fertilizers?

(b) If so, when was it constituted?

(c) What are the main functions of the Committee?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Yes. The Committee was set up on the 28th April, 1953, as a result of a recommendation of the Grow More Food Enquiry Committee which was accepted by Government. Committee's functions are given in a statement placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Functions of the Standing Committee of Experts on Manures and Fertilisers

(i) to render advice regarding the steps that should be taken for increasing the consumption of the existing desirable types of manures and fertilisers;

(ii) to take stock of the results of manurial research in India and foreign countries and to make suggestions for development of better use of manures and fertilisers in the different States;

(iii) to review periodically the progress made in India in the matter of production and consumption of indigenous manures and fertilisers; and

(iv) to recommend such other steps as may be necessary to achieve the above objectives.

PRIVILEGE PASSES

*2163. **Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the merger of 50 per cent. of dearness allowance with the basic salary of the railway employees will have any beneficial effects in regard to the Privilege Pass of the railway employees;

(b) if so, the date from which this will take effect; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) and (b). The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

STUDY OF SCARCITY CONDITIONS OF MADHYA BHARAT

*2168. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to send to Madhya Bharat a Committee to study the conditions of food scarcity affected areas there?

(b) If so, who are the Members of the Committee?

(c) Has any time limit been fixed for the Committee to submit its report?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The Government of India have agreed to send to Madhya Bharat a technical team to make suggestions about afforestation, soil conservation, water utilisation and improvement of fodder resources in the scarcity affected areas of the State. The composition of the team has not yet been settled.

(c) No.

SUPPLY OF MANURES

*2176. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have agreed to sell chemical manures at Rs. 75 per ton less than the usual rate to Madras State;

(b) if so, whether such concession will be given to the other States; and

(c) the date from which it will come into operation?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). The pool price for Ammonium Sulphate was Rs. 370 FOR Madras in 1952. This has been reduced to Rs. 310 for supplies made after 1st January 1953. A similar concession has been given to supplies made elsewhere also.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT DERAGOPIPUR

*2177. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the amount of grants sanctioned and paid out of the Central Road Fund to different State Governments during the year 1952-53?

(b) Have the Punjab Government approached the Central Government for such a grant for the construction of a bridge at Deragopipur on the River Beas?

(c) If so, for how much?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 7.]

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

NANGAL MANDI RAILWAY LINE

***2178. Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under contemplation of the Railway Board to construct a railway line from Nangal township to Mandi town in Himachal Pradesh?

(b) If so, when will it be undertaken?

(c) What is its estimated cost?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

REPRESENTATION FROM MICA LABOUR UNION, JHUMRITELAIYA

***2180. Shri B. D. Shastri:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Mica Labour Union, Jhumritelaiya Hazaribagh District (Bihar), protesting against the interference of the Revenue Minister of Bihar in the working of Labour Unions attached to the mica mines of Hazaribagh District?

(b) What action have the Government of India taken in the matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) No

(b) Does not arise.

FURLOUGH LEAVE OF EX-SCINDIA STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

***2181. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the furlough leave earned by the ex-Scindia State Railway employees has not been carried forward by the Central Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the case of employees of the former Gwalior State transferred to the other Central Government Departments, such furlough leave has been carried forward; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). Instructions have been issued, both in respect of the Ex-Scindia State Rail-employees and in respect of the former Gwalior State employees transferred to other Central Government Departments, that the leave due under the old rules, should be carried forward subject to the limits prescribed in the new leave rules based on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. The Central Railway have not so far permitted the carry forward of furlough. No information regarding such carry forward in the case of employees of the former Gwalior State transferred to other Departments is available and the matter is being looked into with a view to removing disparity if any.

MEMORANDUM FROM INDIAN SEAMEN'S LEAGUE BOMBAY

***2182. Shri B. S. Murthy:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Government of India received any memorandum from the Indian Seamen's League, Bombay, demanding certain benefits and praying for the revision of the Merchant Shipping Act and increased wages, etc.?

(b) What action have Government taken or propose to take on the Memorandum?

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

(b) With the exception of a few demands, most of them relate to service conditions of seamen such as pension, gratuity, pay, leave, hours of duty, etc. These can be settled by negotiations between seamen and their employers.

As regards the other demands which concern Government directly, the Government of India are concerting measures for the setting up of Employment Offices for seaman, and have already relaxed suitably the standards of medical examination for seamen. The question of the revision of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, is also under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE-WELLS IN NORTH GUJRAT

***2185. Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total amount of loan advanced by the Central Government to