

AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS

*254. **Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken to find out the agricultural indebtedness in recent years;

(b) whether the Sample Survey undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India recently indicated a great increase in rural indebtedness; and

(c) if so, whether the Reserve Bank proposes to undertake any steps to help co-operative organisations or others to alleviate the rural indebtedness?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No survey has been conducted in recent years on an all-India basis to ascertain the agricultural indebtedness in the country.

(b) The data collected in the Rural Credit Survey undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India recently are still being tabulated and analysed.

(c) Within the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, the Reserve Bank is extending credit facilities to co-operative organisations to enable them to help farmers with loans.

KEY VILLAGE SCHEME (CENTRES)

*255. **Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of centres under the Key Village Scheme proposed to be established in the year 1953-54?

(b) How many will be run by the State Governments direct and how many through private institutions (giving figures State-wise)?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 36.]

HYDERABAD CONGRESS SESSION

*256. **Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway Department had given concession in the travelling charges to the delegates and other visitor passengers bound to the Hyderabad Congress Session?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): No concession was granted to delegates or other visitors to the Hyderabad Congress Session.

EXPERTS FROM JAPAN

*257. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any experts have been invited from Japan under the Point Four Programme to advise Indian farmers in advanced methods of agriculture?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): No.

FAMINE AREAS OF BOMBAY

*258. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Minister of Agriculture of the Government of India toured some of the areas under famine in the State of Bombay in the month of December, 1952?

(b) What are his observations regarding the crop condition and the purchasing power of the people in that area?

(c) What financial assistance do the Government of India propose to give and in what form?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) He observed that the condition of crop in many areas was deplorable, and as a result of this as well as lack of employment, the purchasing power of the people in some areas had gone down.

(c) The Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 111.3 lakhs for minor irrigation works in the scarcity areas of Bombay. The question of giving more assistance is under consideration.

DARBHANGA MEDICAL COLLEGE

*259. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Medical Council has withdrawn its recognition from the Darbhanga Medical College of the Bihar University;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Degrees of this College were recognised by the Council when it was under the Patna University; and

(d) what are the terms on the fulfilment of which the Council would give its recognition to the Degrees of the College?