

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the soil in the places which are being now cleared of jungle in Long Island, is suited for cultivation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is under trial. We have to experiment with regard to that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that a large amount of land at the present time is lying idle with wildly grown coffee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Since my hon. friend has just been to the Andamans, possibly what he has stated is true.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the variety of coffee produced there, whether it is Robusta or Arabica?

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

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the coffee produced in the Andamans was ultimately sold in the market and fetched some money?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the rubber produced in the Andamans is of a higher quality than what we have in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Let us hope so.

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

Mr. Chairman: Next Question. Shri Nambiar.

Shri Nambiar: No. 1655. It is not "Sindi" but it is "Hindi".

TRANSFER OF DISPLACED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES FROM SOUTHERN RAILWAY

*1655. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many displaced Railway employees have been posted at far off Railway Stations; and

(b) whether Government have received representations from Hindi and Bengali-speaking Railway employees posted on the Southern Railway for being transferred to their respective linguistic areas and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Some displaced persons, not displaced Railway employees—mostly from East Bengal, living in refugee camps in West Bengal, were posted to the Southern Railway on a request from the Rehabilitation authorities early in

1951 in vacancies arising out of the implementation of the Adjudicator's Award.

(b) Yes; arrangements have been made to transfer them to their respective linguistic areas as and when vacancies occur.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether they will be transferred within a short time, because 'as and when vacancies occur' is a very vague term?

Shri Alagesan: When these refugees were appointed on the Southern Railway, the Railway Authorities told them that they were going to a place where language etc. differ. So, with the full knowledge of these conditions, they went there. Already many of them have been transferred to the Eastern and Northern Railways. The rest can be transferred only as and when vacancies occur. It was not as if they went there without knowing what the conditions were.

Shri Gidwai: Will the Government consider the desirability of transferring displaced Railway employees from Sind to work on the Kandla-Deesa Railway, as it will help in the development of Gandhidam?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot give an answer of hand. It can be considered.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the approximate number of Hindi and Bengali speaking employees working in this railway?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have their number here.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether free passes and other facilities are given to such employees as are transferred to other places?

Shri Alagesan: The usual conditions will be observed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether due to regrouping of the railways, such persons have been sent to distant stations, and if so, what arrangements are being made to return them to their places?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. It was a question of finding employment for the refugees who came from East Bengal and were crowding in West Bengal. Because there were vacancies in the Southern Railway, they were employed there.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I take it that due to regrouping there was no such transfer?

Shri Alagesan: The regrouping has nothing to do with that.

Shri Thanu Pillai: Are there any Sindi speaking areas in our country?

Shri Alagesan: The word 'Sindi' is a printer's devil. It should be Hindi.

POTATO RESEARCH STATIONS

*1656. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of potato Research Stations in India;

(b) the names of stations under the control of the Government of India and those under State Governments; and

(c) whether Government considered at any time the question of taking over all stations under their control?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 15.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table.

(c) No.

STATEMENT

The Potato Research Stations under the Central and State Governments.

A. Central Government:

(1) Central Potato Research Institute, Patna (Bihar).

(2) Potato Breeding Sub-Station Simla (Punjab).

(3) Potato Multiplication sub-Station Bhowali (Uttar Pradesh).

(4) Potato Certification Sub-Station Kufri (Himachal Pradesh).

B. State Governments:

Assam—

(5) Upper Shillong Agricultural Farm.

Madras—

(6) Agricultural Research Station, Nanjanad (Nilgiri Hills).

Punjab—

(7) Potato Research Station, Palampur (Kangra District).

(8) Branch Sub-Station, Manali (Kulu Valley).

Uttar Pradesh—

(9) Potato Research Sub-Station Farrukhabad.

(10) Potato Research Sub-Station, Kausani (Almorah District).

(11) Government Research Farm, Kanpur.

West Bengal—

(12) Potato Research Station, Bhanjang (Darjeeling District).

(13) Potato Research Station, Rangabull (Darjeeling District).

Himachal Pradesh—

(14) Himachal Potato Development Station, Shilaru (Mahasu District).

(15) Himachal Potato Development Station, Alha (Chamba District).

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the cost of maintenance of the Research Stations during the latest year for which figures are available in respect of those under the control of the Central Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to ask for notice.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the progress of the scheme under the Five Year Plan for co-ordinated development of potatoes in the country?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The whole scheme has to be recited here?

Shri N. M. Lingam: No, Sir. There was the programme for the production of 30 lakhs maunds of seed potatoes. May I know how far progress has been made in achieving that target?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The question referred to potato Research Stations. I am afraid I have not got the figures.

Shri Nanadas: Arising out of the answer given to part (c) of the question, may I know the reason for the Government not taking over these stations?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We consider that the stations that we are looking after are enough for our purposes. Some responsibility must be placed on the States' shoulders also.

Shri G. H. Deshpande: Is there any research station for potatoes in Poona district?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Shri G. H. Deshpande: Is the Government aware of the fact that Poona is a good potato producing centre?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are glad to hear of it.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What is the criterion for the selection of sites for opening potato research centres?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Wherever we consider the site as best suited. Wherever the States have their stations, I believe they do the same.