

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Dighwara in Saran district where potatoes are grown in very large quantities has been selected for such Research Stations?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would refer the hon. Member to the State Government.

श्री भक्त वरुण : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अभी १५ रिसर्च स्टेशनों का जिक्र किया है। क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि पर्वतीय इलाकों में कौन कौन रिसर्च स्टेशन हैं और उन में रिसर्च का कितना कार्य किया गया है ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know which areas he means. Himachal Pradesh has got two, and Uttar Pradesh three. There is one Potato Research Sub-station in Kausani of Almora district. All these are given in the statement.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members cannot simply jump and go on asking questions. What is the hurry? They can't start asking questions when the hon. Minister is replying.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As is given in the statement, there is only one other place where potato cultivation is being tried, namely Kodaikanal and Palni Hills. Beyond that, there is nothing else.

Shri Sarmah: Regard being had to the fact that agriculture is essentially a State subject, may I know why the Central Government are not making over these Research Stations to the States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have no Research Station at least in Assam, so the hon. Member need have no complaint.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the number of improved varieties bred in these stations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Can there not be a statement to this effect? Has the hon. Minister got the information?

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

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON RAILWAYS

*1659. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the steps taken to improve the sanitation on Railways after the integration?

(b) Is there any public Health Department working on the Railways?

(c) If so, what is the strength of public health personnel on each Railway System?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Railways have always undertaken public health activities in relation to Railway premises and these have been continued and integrated in the re-grouped Railways.

(b) There is no separate Public Health Department on any of the Railways, but the work is controlled generally by the Chief Medical Officer.

(c) Information is not readily available.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether more than 500 sanitary inspectors of the Railways do not have proper allocation of work?

Shri Alagesan: I cannot give their exact number, but they are allotted duties, and they are doing their work. I do not know wherefrom the hon. Member gets his information.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether the Railway Board has given effect to the L.R.C.A. resolution passed by the C.M.O.'s of Class I Railways in 1947 regarding the formation of a Public Health Department,

Shri Alagesan: I should like to have notice.

Shri Nanadas: What are the items of sanitary work performed by these people?

Shri Alagesan: They look to sanitation and hygiene of Railway Stations and premises, examination of articles of food sold on the Railway Stations and in other Railway institutions, inspection of Railway dining cars etc. etc.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether the local public health authorities have any jurisdiction over Railway premises, such as restaurants, stalls etc.?

Shri Alagesan: The railway staff are looking after these things.

CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

*1660. **Shri Naval Prabhakar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Central Tractor Organisation was sent to U.S.A. on Government expenses for the purchase of heavy machinery?

(b) If so, did he purchase eight international trucks costing eight lakhs?

(c) Is it a fact that these trucks are being disposed of even unpacked?

(d) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, the Chairman was deputed to the U.S.A. in 1951 for arranging the purchase of spare parts stocks and some heavy machinery.

(b) It is a fact that eight trucks were purchased by the India Supply Mission on the basis of such an indent. The total cost of the eight trucks is approximately Rs. 4 lakhs, not Rs. 8 lakhs.

(c) Of these eight trucks, four trucks were disposed of in their original packing to the Hirakud Dam Construction Project on payment of full cost. The remaining four trucks have been unpacked, assembled and kept in store without being used. Effort is being made to dispose of them.

(d) A Committee on which the House is represented has been appointed to examine the working of the Central Tractor Organisation, and one of the points referred to the Committee is the appropriateness of the purchases made by the Central Tractor Organisation.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : यह ट्रक साधारण ट्रकों से कितने बड़े हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : काफी बड़े हैं। इनकी कीमत ३५ हजार तक जाती है।

Dr. Suresh Chandra: When we have a Supply Mission in Washington, why was this officer sent to the U.S.A.?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The intention was to inform personally what the requirements of the C.T.O. were, and thus to have personal contact with the Supply Mission.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Could we not have got this information by correspondence?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Evidently not.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know if all these eight trucks were required why four of them are lying idle even now?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is a somewhat long history, Sir. At the time when these trucks were purchased, the idea was that transport of the heavy

tractors by these trucks would be more beneficial. When these were got here, we started making our own roads with the graders that we purchased. With the graded roads, it was better to use other vehicles, and other cars, rather than the big heavy trucks that we had purchased. I can assure the House that we have not at least so far incurred any loss. It was merely a case of one idea being given up in favour of another, because the other one was thought more profitable.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know the expenditure that was incurred by this officer in this enterprise?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, it will be most insignificant in view of the purchases made.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know, Sir, whether the present Chairman or the previous Chairman had gone to purchase these?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The present Chairman.

Shri Kelappan: May I know, Sir, what are the other transactions that this officer entered into?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir: I have not got that list here.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the four trucks which were sent to Hirakud are being used there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. I do not think anybody purchases anything without using it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: They were purchased by the Government of India.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the person responsible for the mechanical supervision of the C.T.O. is himself not a qualified engineer?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is difference of opinion whether he may be an expert or not. At the present moment, he is not an engineer.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: May I know, Sir, why there is a difference of opinion. There can't be a difference of opinion in this matter.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Some may think an administrator is necessary; others may think an engineer is necessary.

Dr. Suresh Chandra rose—

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister says it is a difference of opinion whether a qualified engineer is necessary or any other person can do the work. Therefore, the question of qualification does not arise.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: How much money was spent on this officer's tour to the United States?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said it was insignificant.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I know, Sir, whether these four tractors were indented for by the Eizakud authorities or they were imposed upon them?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir, nothing is imposed. I do not think we are capable of imposing anything upon anybody. They were purchased by them because they were found necessary. But they were trucks and not tractors.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know, Sir, the total number of tractors which are lying unused by the Centre Tractor Organisation now?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: First of all, the question was about trucks. I have not got the figures here, but I do not think there are any tractors which are purchased and not used.

'CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS' IN ASSAM

***1661. Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amount of money was granted by the Central Government to the Government of Assam for setting up "Cheap Grain Shops" for the Garos of border areas?

(b) How many Cheap Grain Shops were set up and how many people have been benefited?

(c) Has any portion of the amount granted been surrendered by the authorities to the Central Government?

(d) If so, what amount has been surrendered and why?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The Central Government did not give any grant for the purpose but promised to bear the cost of subsidised sales of rice in Khasi and Jaintia and Garo at Shillong prices if Assam Government's revenues were not augmented as a result of the Finance Commission's recommendations.

(b) Nine Cheap Grain Shops have been set up and an approximate popu-

lation of 25,000 is expected to be benefited.

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

Shri Sarmah: How does the position stand at present, after the report of the Finance Commission? May I know whether the Central Government subsidise the Government of Assam or not?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Their finances have been augmented as a result of the Finance Commission's recommendations, and the Finance Ministry says there is no reason why we should subsidise the grain.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

***1663. Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether talks on the international Wheat Agreement have taken a final shape?

(b) If so, what is the new ceiling price fixed?

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

(b) \$2.05 (gold dollar) per bushel in Store Ft. William/Port Arthur.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, the quantity we have agreed to purchase every year, and also if the price goes down in the open market, whether it will be obligatory on us to pay at agreed rate?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We discussed all this yesterday.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Yes, Sir. This was discussed yesterday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will proceed to the next question.

Next Question No. 1665.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Sir, there is an important correction to (a) of the question. It is 'do not get adequate cargo from the same port'.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): How can a question be corrected now?

CARGO F SHIPS AT CALCUTTA PORT

***1665. Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign-ships loading at Calcutta port sailed almost always with full loads of cargo