

है कि पंजाब में कितनी गहराई पर आम तौर पर पानी मिलता है और क्या ट्यूब वेल की स्कीम कामयाब हो रही है ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** ट्यूबवेल का जो तरीका है वह ३००, ४०० फुट के नीचे से पानी लाता है और इस के लिये काफी गहराई में जाना पड़ता है।

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I believe this tube-well construction is in the T.C.A. scheme. May I know if it is obligatory for us to get these from or give the contracts for the construction to the American firm?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Not at all, Sir.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether in the Punjab the American firms or the other firms could not perform their operations within the scheduled time?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There has been considerable delay. We had to assess the difficulties in the way, and at the present moment the progress is fairly satisfactory.

**Shri Kelappan:** What was the amount charged by the Associated Tubewells?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That contract was given at Rs. 25,000.

**Shri Namdhari:** Will the Government consider sanctioning tubewells for the Sirsa tehsil to rescue it from famine condition?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** We have not considered any such scheme. Such schemes if recommended by State Governments, including my hon. friend's Hissar district and other districts may come up for consideration later on. If the State Government wants them, probably they will be taken up at a later stage.

ADDRESSING OF LETTERS TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, COOCH BEHAR

\*786. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether sometimes Central Government Departments address

letters to the Chief Minister or to the Chief Commissioner, Cooch Behar who do not exist now?

**The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** Yes; but suitable arrangements have been made for the delivery of such letters to the Deputy Commissioner, Cooch Behar, who is now the Administrative Head of the Cooch Behar District, and no difficulty is felt in the matter.

RAJASTHAN DESERT

\*788. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Desert Afforestation Research Station has proceeded to create a belt of trees near the western border of Rajasthan;

(b) how much area is proposed to be utilised for the creation of the belt;

(c) which sort of trees will withstand the onslaught of blown sand;

(d) what sort of help has been received from the International organisations; and

(e) whether maps have been drawn and acquisition proceedings completed?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Pending acquisition of private land included in the belt along the western border of Rajasthan, experimental sowing of the seeds of *prosopis juliflora* and of certain other xerophytic species was undertaken on 1st July, 1953 by aeroplane over a length of about 32 miles from Gadra Road to Girole.

(b) About 2,000 square miles.

(c) This is one of the functions of the Desert Afforestation Research Station which is actively engaged in ascertaining the species most suited for the purpose. The chances are that species of *prosopis*, *acacia* and those growing locally already would succeed.

(d) An order had been placed through the Technical Co-operation Administration for certain equipment; a Food and Agricultural Organization sponsored expert is expected to arrive this cold weather.

(e) Preliminary maps have been drawn. Acquisition proceedings are under way.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the area contemplated to be planted with trees in the western part of Rajasthan has been measured and if so what is the probable amount?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It has not been measured. But, we know approximately the belt where we want to plant these trees.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know the area in length and breadth that has to be planted?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The idea is to have a belt at least five miles deep extending over a considerable part of the border.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know if it is a fact that the Central Board of Forestry which met last June, under the Presidentship of the hon. Minister urged upon the Government to set up a committee consisting also of Members of the respective States, and whether that committee has been formed to co-ordinate this work?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There has been a committee of experts which has made the report and it is more or less on the lines of the recommendations of that committee that we are acting. In addition to this, when there was a meeting of the Board of Forestry in Dehra Dun, several States suggested a higher committee consisting of Ministers and so on. That would probably be taken up soon.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the suggestions appearing in the *Courier*, a monthly publication of the UNESCO, have been taken into consideration and if so, what steps have been taken in that direction?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am afraid my attention has not been drawn to this particular article.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** In view of the news appearing from time to time about the approach of the Rajasthan desert towards Delhi, may I know whether the Desert Afforestation Research Station has undertaken any enquiries on this matter and whether they have made any recommendations, and what action has been taken on those recommendations?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The setting up of the committee which I referred to and the various steps indicated here are all in consequence of the apprehension that the desert may be approaching.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** I refer to Delhi.

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

**श्री हेडा :** बारिश काफी न होने या कम होने की सूरत में भी क्या यह फाएरेस्टेशन की जो स्कीम है दरकत बगरह उगाने की, उसके कामयाब होने के बारे में गवर्नमेंट को विश्वास है, और अगर विश्वास नहीं है तो आल्टरनेट स्कीम पर अभी से सोचा जा रहा है या इस स्कीम के फेज होने के बाद सोचा जायगा ?

**डा० पी० एस० देशमुख :** जब बारिश होगी या नहीं होगी तब सोचा जायगा । अभी तो यह नहीं सोचा जा सकता कि बारिश कितनी होगी और कितनी नहीं होगी ।

**Shri B. K. Das:** What is the total cost of the scheme? What amount has been spent so far?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The amount spent so far is not very large. But, I am sure this will be shared between the Centre and the States. No definite money has been allocated for this purpose alone. But, I am sure that all the funds that would be necessary would be coming forth

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether any scientist from India has been represented in the Advisory Committee consisting of 9 scientists of the world, under the UNESCO?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I would like to have notice of the question. My hon. friend is referring to something which I have not got here.

STATE EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE  
SCHEME

\*789. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state in how many industrial centres the State Employees Health Insurance Scheme has been introduced up to 31st May, 1953?

(b) What is the total population of workers covered by the scheme so far?

(c) What will be the total population of insurable workers when the whole scheme will be applied in full?

(d) What are the reasons for the delay in the implementation of the full scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) The Scheme has been introduced in Delhi, in the Kanpur area of Uttar Pradesh and in seven industrial areas in Punjab.

(b) 1,56,000 approximately

(c) 2.5 million.

(d) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 21.]

**Shri Gidwani:** In the statement, the hon. Minister has stated:

"Before the scheme can be extended to any place, the State Government concerned has to make arrangements for medical, surgical and obstetric treatment and has to enter into an agreement with the Corporation regarding the nature and scale of the medical treatment and for the sharing of the cost thereof. State Governments, with their financial

difficulties do not find these responsibilities easy to discharge but they are doing their best to cooperate with the Corporation."

May I know what will be the total share of the cost which each State will have to bear if the scheme is implemented?

**Shri Abid Ali:** There are two systems: one is the 'Panel' system and the other is the Service system. Under different systems different amounts of contribution by the States are expected. This matter is under negotiation with the State Governments. At present I would not be able to say anything further in the matter.

**Shri Gidwani:** What was the actual share? On account of paucity of funds or stringency of funds, the State Governments are not able to implement the scheme. I want to know what will be their share: will it be crores or lakhs or hundreds?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It depends upon the size of the State and also the number of employees in each State. Of course, it will be a very big amount.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He is not able to say.

**Shri Gidwani:** He may say that he is not able to say. That is all right. Is it a fact that the delay was due to the differences between the Labour Secretariat and Dr. Katial, Ex-Director of the Corporation and that his plans were not implemented by the Government as alleged by him?

**Shri Abid Ali:** No, Sir.

**Shri Muniswamy:** The hon. Minister said that such schemes have been introduced in some places. May I know whether there is any proposal to open up such centres throughout the country?

**Shri Abid Ali:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know by what time the Government contemplate to bring in all these 2.5 million workers under the scheme?