

Union Public Service Commission are permitted to send advance copies of their applications if they are in Government service;

(b) whether this procedure is adopted by the Railway Service Commissions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). The question is under consideration.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

***671. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Method of rice cultivation has been adopted in any Government Experimental farms; and

(b) if so, with what results?

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

(b) The results are reported to be uniformly encouraging. Detailed data are, however, still awaited from the States.

Shri K. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that for want of good seeds, the desired effects are not being achieved?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are trying to do our best to increase the supply of good seed. Of course, if better seeds could be found for the use of this method, better results will be achieved. I am conscious that everywhere good seeds are not available.

Shri K. P. Sinha: What is the total area put under rice cultivation this year under this method?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: According to the reports so far received, the total is 206,174.25 acres. From one or two States final reports have not yet been received.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to apply this method of cultivation for growing other food crops?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. Many of the items in this method, except trans-

planting and one or two others, are applicable to other crops. It is our endeavour to make it applicable to other crops also.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any recommendations have been by the Indian Commission which had been to Japan to study this method and if so, whether they were implemented here?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They have studied the question and they have made recommendations. They have been separately replied to in this House.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know what is the comparative cost of cultivation of one acre under the Japanese method and under our Indian methods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have got figures from two places so far. We will probably get figures from every State, almost for all the 2 lakh acres, and we are likely to get complete data from beginning to end. It is observable that the costs vary from place to place. For instance, at Karjat, according to the Japanese method the expenditure was Rs. 304-2-0 as against Rs. 119-4-0 for the Indian method. In Kosbad School in the Bombay State, the difference was little Rs. 254-9-6 against Rs. 209-6-0. But there are people who have, after a certain amount of practice, done it very very cheaply.

AERODROMES

***672. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many new aerodromes are proposed to be opened during the first Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any abandoned aerodrome is proposed to be taken up and operated;

(c) whether all the existing aerodromes are equipped according to standards prescribed by I.C.A.O.; and

(d) which of the important equipments for installation at aerodromes are manufactured in India and which are purchased from abroad?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is proposed to construct 9 new aerodromes and develop 4 abandoned aerodromes during the First Five Year Plan period.

(c) Recommendations made by the I.C.A.O. are implemented from time to time to the extent of India's resources and operational requirements.

(d) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 35.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: With reference to answers to parts (a) and (b), may I know whether the contemplated Port Blair aerodrome has been included in the number?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have got a provision of Rs. 41.35 lakhs at the moment and for that in the order of priority, we have taken up four aerodromes, viz., Kandla, Udaipur, Chandigarh and Haldwani. Port Blair is not there at the moment.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Cooch Behar and Balurghat aerodromes have been handed over by the West Bengal Government to the Department?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would like to have a separate question put for it.

Shri Raghuramiah: Considering that there is absolutely no aerodrome in the new State of Andhra, may I know whether it is proposed to revive the abandoned Gannavaram aerodrome or construct a new one near Kurnool?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I might respectfully remind the hon. Member about Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि जबलपुर का एरोड्रोम बहुत खराब हालत में हो गया है और थोड़ी सी मरम्मत से वह ठीक हो सकता है ? ऐसी हालत में उस पर भी कुछ थोड़ा सा खर्च करके क्या उस को ठीक कराने का इरादा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : प्रत्येक एरोड्रोम के बारे में जताना मेरे लिये कठिन है क्योंकि किस अवसर पर उस को लेना चाहिये और किस तरह उसका इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये यह इस पर निर्भर करता है कि वहां से कितना ट्रैफिक मिलता है और उस के ठीक करने की कहां तक आवश्यकता है ।

TREATED GRASS THATCH

*674. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun has developed any process for making thatch grass non-inflammable ;

(b) if so, what will be its cost; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to popularise this method in the rural areas?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No. They have developed a process to make grass fire-resistant.

(b) Fire-resistant grass would cost about Rs. 80 per 100 sq. ft.

(c) The stage has not yet been reached for taking this to the rural areas but the work so far carried out is fully described in the Indian Forest Leaflet No. 133. copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Demonstrations were also made at the Railway Centenary Exhibition and at the International Low Cost Housing Exhibition at Delhi.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Do I understand that the cost is Rs. 80 per sq. ft., or per 100 sq. ft?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Per 100 sq. ft.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Is it square feet or cubic feet?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Square feet of the upper area covered by the thatch.