

श्री किडवाई : अभी तक सरकार का यह इरादा नहीं है कि किसानों को ज्यादा कीमत दे कर जूट को खरीदे और कम कीमत पर उस के माल को यहां से बाहर भेजे ।

The L. N. Mishra: The hon. Minister has referred to the question of improving the quality of jute. May I know whether the Government have received any reports from the State Governments about the steps they are taking towards improving the quality of jute? I may inform the hon. Minister that so far as the State Governments are concerned, no steps have been taken to improve the quality of jute.

Shri Kidwai: The hon. Member himself has replied to that question, but I think the information is not correct. We daily receive reports which show that different schemes for improving the quality of jute have been started in West Bengal and in other States, particularly Uttar Pradesh.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if the Government has made any survey to find out if the actual price prevailing this year is on a par with the cost of production of jute?

Shri Kidwai: It is very difficult to actually find out what is the cost of production of an Indian agriculturist, because I have found that, when in one State the Government attempted to find out the cost of production of wheat, the result was that it was found to be Rs. 80 per maund which nobody could imagine.

PORT AND SHIPPING STATISTICS COMMITTEE REPORT

*902. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Port and Shipping Statistics Committee has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report will be placed on the Table of the House?

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

(b) A copy of the report will be placed in the Library of Parliament as soon as it is printed.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know what are the main features of the commendation?

Mr. Speaker: He will find them in the report when it is placed in the Library; it is under print.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ANDHRA

*903. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the national highways that pass through the Andhra State;

(b) whether it is a fact that some more roads are proposed to be taken over by the national highways;

(c) if so, the names of such roads; and

(d) the amount that has been sanctioned during the year 1954-55 for the maintenance of the national highways in Andhra State, specifying the allotment for each road?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 3.]

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rs. 32.00 lakhs. Information regarding the amount ear-marked for each road has not yet been received from the State Government.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: With reference to National Highway No. 7 connecting Benaras and Cape Comorin may I know whether the Government of Andhra have requested the Central Government to construct a bridge over Tungabhadra and if so,

what action has the Government taken in this respect?

Shri Alagesan: It has been decided in consultation with the Andhra Government to take National Highway No. 7 via Kurnool and it has also been decided to put up a bridge on the Tungabhadra.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether Government have fixed any criterion for deciding a road as a National Highway, or it is decided at random?

Shri Alagesan: Not at all; we do follow some principles like connecting major ports, capitals of States, so on and so forth.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

*904. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to conduct classes for the training of the Revenue Department employees of States for collecting agricultural statistics of the country;

(b) if so, the main purpose of starting these classes; and

(c) when they will be started and on what level?

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

(b) The object of the training is to ensure that agencies whose duty it is to report or record different items of agricultural statistics are enabled to discharge their duties adequately with a proper understanding of the new standard, definitions, and concepts evolved during recent years.

(c) It is hoped to be able to start these classes before the end of this financial year. Several States have agreed to join the scheme, but a number of others have not yet communicated their views.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know who will bear the expenses for these classes; whether Central or State Governments?

Shri Kidwai: The Centre is starting the classes and so it will bear the expenses.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know the total number of employees to be trained and the period of training?

Shri Kidwai: That will be decided when we receive applications and also the recommendations from the States.

TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

*905. **Shri Gidwai:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware that many applications for allotment of telephones have not been disposed of for want of telephone equipment in Delhi, Bombay and other places in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortage of the equipment; and

(c) when do Government expect to supply telephone connections to all those who need them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The amount of equipment that is available from workshops and other sources is much less than what is required to meet the demands which are abnormally high and it takes considerable time for the manufacture and installation of equipment, especially the auto plant.

(c) By 31st March, 1955, it is expected that a position will be reached when it will be possible to provide connections to all those who need them in all exchange except about 24 large cities.

Shri Gidwai: "Except about 24 large cities", but it is the cities that need these connections most.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Gidwai: The hon. Minister stated that connections could be provided to all those who need them in all exchanges except 24 cities. May