

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

*1253. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply to a supplementary question on starred question No. 514 asked on the 10th September, 1954 and state:

(a) the total acreage of land under Japanese method of rice cultivation at present; and

(b) the total quantity of fertilisers required for this land?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Transplanting of paddy is still in progress in several parts of the country and it is yet too early in the season to say what acreage would be actually put under the Japanese method of rice cultivation.

(b) This will depend upon the total acreage actually brought under this method of cultivation.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: Is it a fact that the Government placed orders for 50,000 tons of fertilisers somewhere in April and may I know whether that consignment has arrived in time to be used in the farms?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The hon. Member has not stated to what State he refers. But, I must confess that in some cases we have been rather handicapped for want of supplies. We are doing our best to supply where the need is the greatest.

Shri Madhao Reddi: May I know whether it is a fact that the acreage under rice under the Japanese method has decreased considerably this year due to discontinuing the practice of supply of fertilisers on *taccavi* basis by the State Governments?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. Probably, there is some truth in the statement that adequate *taccavi* grants might not have been available. I have not got data and figures with regard to it.

Diwan Raghavendra Rao: With a view to increase rice cultivation under the Japanese method, have

the Government encouraged the manufacture of agricultural implements of the Japanese type, and if so, in which institutions?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We had manufactured one in the I.C.A.R. There are some manufactured by private firms. They are being made available in some cases as free gifts and in others on trial.

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN THE PUNJAB

*1255. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any programme for Minor Irrigation Schemes from the Punjab State for the year 1954-55;

(b) if so, whether it has been approved; and

(c) the amount allocated for it?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Rs. 1,20,87,120.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what was the amount of grant that was asked for?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got that figure. In most cases, unless the scheme is essentially unsound, we generally approve the proposals of the State Government.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what items are included in this scheme known by the name of minor irrigation schemes?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: By minor irrigation, we mean subject to certain other conditions, schemes which do not cost more than Rs. 10 lakhs.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what kinds of schemes are these?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid, it would take long to describe this. We have got rules and specific categories of the works which are included in these.