

detailed plans, but not very detailed ones, giving us the indication of the expenditure as well as the utility.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the late Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, was pleased to assure the Punjab Government and some deputationists that Rs. 2 crores will be available for irrigation for Gurgaon District for all areas except Rewari, for which Rs. 50 lakhs were promised, and at the same time the promise was given that in the near future the construction of experimental tube-wells in the Gurgaon District will also be begun in 1954, instead of in 1956?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We will certainly do everything to respect the wishes of or whatever was promised by the late Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, but sometimes there are exaggerated claims on this account.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that between the sanctioning of the amount for these irrigation facilities in the districts to which the hon. Minister has referred and the time of putting them into effect, there is a very big gap, and that the progress of the works is very very slow? If I may be permitted to say so, nothing has happened so far.

Mr. Speaker: There is no question to be answered.

CASHEWNUIT INDUSTRY

*1036. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set apart any specific amount in 1954 for undertaking developmental measures in the Cashewnut Industry; and

(b) if so, how much?

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

(b) Rs. 2.5 lakhs

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether out of this amount, any amount has been utilised for the development

of raw cashewnuts in the country the production of which, according to the report of the Spices Enquiry Committee, is so low as 25 pounds per tree now?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I cannot give the details of these sums.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government are aware that the industry—the cashew-processing industry—which depends upon raw nut availability has so developed that now it is not possible to meet the requirements by indigenous production and that we have to import about 50 to 60 per cent. of our requirements chiefly because the local production is very, very low? May I know whether Government have taken this fact into account and done anything to increase the production of raw cashewnuts in this country in order that the industry may stand on its own footing?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes; this is one of the objectives of the policy that the Government is pursuing, and that is the reason why Rs. 2.5 lakhs are provided for this industry.

Shri Velayudhan: Out of this amount that is spent for the development of the cashewnut industry, how much is spent in the Travancore-Cochin State which is one of the premier cashewnut producing States in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sure an adequate amount would be spent.

Shri B. K. Das: What areas are being considered in respect of this industry?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have suggested to the Governments of Travancore-Cochin, Madras, Bombay and Madhya Bharat to submit concrete schemes for the development of cashewnut.

FAMILY PLANNING

*1037. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the voluntary institutions to which Government aid based on the recommendations of the

Family Planning Research and Programmes Committee is sought to be given in the Punjab;

(b) the amount of aid that will be given to them; and

(c) the other ways in which Family Planning work is being done in the Punjab?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The Family Planning Association, Punjab, Simla.

(b) A grant-in-aid of Rs. 17,600/- has already been sanctioned for the current year.

(c) A note containing the information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 62.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what is the total amount of grants sanctioned for the whole of India for this purpose and what is the proportion of these grants given to the Punjab and the adjacent States?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: According to the approved family planning programmes, a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been set aside for the two years, 1954-55 and 1955-56. Out of this, Rs. 4,75,160 has already been sanctioned and Rs. 4,21,421 is now before the Planning Commission on the recommendation of the Committee and will shortly be sanctioned, I hope.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that the family planning programme is wholly of an academic value and it has not produced any practical results?

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know what is the amount sanctioned for Bihar and whether any arrangements have been made there?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not find the name of Bihar among the States to which help has been given by the Government of India, and I presume that Bihar has not asked for anything.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the proportion of the grants made to the respective States is dependent on the fertility of the inhabitants of the respective States?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I do not know on what basis the States asked for these grants, but those States that are anxious to do something and present a scheme that passes muster are given grants.

MESSAGE RATE SYSTEM

***1038. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to extend the Message Rate System to important cities where this system is not in vogue?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes, gradually in important towns having Auto exchanges.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know in how many cities this message rate system has been introduced so far?

Shri Raj Bahadur: 17.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when this message rate system will be introduced in the two cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In Hyderabad, it is already there, and it is in force since the 16th May, 1954.

CORRUPTION AMONG RAILWAY STAFF

***1039. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1242 on the 22nd September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the report of the Departmental Committee regarding the racket at Sulebhavi Station on the Southern Railway has since been submitted to Government; and

(b) if so, the main findings and recommendations of the Committee?