

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

*355. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Justice H. V. Divatia, a retired Judge of the Bombay High Court, who was asked by the Government of India to enquire into the costly muddle by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in respect of the manufacture of agricultural implements, found several irregularities on the part of the three concerned Ministries?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Shri H. V. Divatia, who was appointed to enquire into the circumstances relating to the order for agricultural implements placed on an Indian firm on behalf of the Government of India, has recently submitted his report. His report is under the consideration of Government. I shall be able to supply fuller information on the subject at a later date.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know when the report was submitted to the Government? How recently?

Shri Kidwai: I think it was received sometime in the third week of last month.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: How long will the consideration take?

Shri Kidwai: I do not think that it will take long because it is being sent to Home and Law Ministries for their opinion and before the close of this session, I will place the Government's considered opinion before the House.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know whether action will be taken against the previous incumbents—Ministers—if they are found to be guilty of having committed irregularities?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. At this stage that question is premature.

FAMILY PLANNING

*356. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state how much money has been allotted by Government for the W. H. O. projects of population control for the year 1952-53?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): There are no W. H. O. projects of population control. The Government of India have made a lump sum provision of Rs. 3 lakhs in the budget for 1952-53 for experimental studies on family planning. A

part of this provision will be used to meet the local expenses of experts who have come in connection with these schemes.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know if Government consulted medical opinion in the country with regard to the suitability of Dr. Stone's method, before it was introduced.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir. Medical opinion, of course, was available to us.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: What are the reactions of the medical experts?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Favourable.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the Government is aware that certain religious communities are very much opposed to any sort of family planning?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Government is aware that there is a controversy on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: That is rather giving an opinion. Next question.

RE-GROUPING OF RAILWAYS (RETRENCHMENT)

*357. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any retrenchment of railway personnel has resulted from the regrouping of Railways; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether alternate employment is being provided for the affected staff?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is there likely to any potential threat of unemployment?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No. I do not think so.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether by transfer of persons and by increasing the work load under this regrouping system, retrenchment is possible?

Shri L. B. Shastri: So far as these Railway—the North Western and North Eastern Railways—are concerned, the House is aware that an assurance was given that no retrenchment will take place.