

(b) Weather conditions mainly.

(c) (i) Distribution of improved seeds.

(ii) Distribution of fertilisers.

(iii) Construction of retting tanks.

(iv) Establishment of seed multiplication farms.

(v) Conduct of subvention trials and demonstration of methods of line-sowing.

(d) The target of production for 1952-53 is proposed to be achieved both by extensive and intensive cultivation.

Shri B. K. Das: What has been the highest yield per acre in the past, in those areas?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice of the question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the hon. Minister tell us the area of paddy-growing land which has been given over to jute cultivation?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice of the question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what proportion of our jute requirement is met by local production?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice.

Mr. Speaker: I think there were a number of questions on this subject in the last session. If hon. Members will only care to refer to the old proceedings, they will get all the information.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether any enquiry has been conducted in Travancore-Cochin as to the possibility of cultivating jute there?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice. I am not aware where jute has been tried and it has failed and where it has not been tried.

पंडित ए० आर० शास्त्री : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों में भी ऐसी भूमि है जिस में जूट की पैदावार बहुत अच्छी होती है ? क्या उसकी खेती बढ़ाने की कोई कोशिश हो रही है ?

[Pandit A. R. Shastri: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a certain kind of land in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh which yields a

good crop of jute? Is any effort being made to increase its production?]

श्री किडवाई : यह तो मुझे मालूम है कि वहां कुछ जूट पैदा होता था, लेकिन वह बहुत अच्छा है इसकी कोई तफसील नहीं है। उत्तर प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट खुद जूट की पैदावार बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रही है।

[Shri Kidwai: I know that there was some jute cultivation there but it is not known whether it is of a superior quality. Uttar Pradesh Government is itself trying to step up jute production.]

GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA TRANSPORT BOARD

*134. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what are the functions of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Transport Board recently appointed by Government;

(b) what is the non-recurring and recurring expenditure involved; and

(c) whether the Board has begun functioning?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to my reply to starred question No. 49 by Shri A. C. Guha given on the floor of the House on the 20th May 1952.

(b) The Central Government have already made a contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs to the Board in 1951-52 and include a similar provision in the budget for 1952-53. Contributions are proposed to be maintained at this rate during the period of the Five Year Plan. The State Governments concerned are expected to contribute each Rs. one lakh per year.

(c) The Board will be meeting shortly to formulate its programme of work.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any survey was made before the appointment of this Board regarding the possibilities and potentialities of these rivers for transport purposes?

Shri L. B. Shastri: A survey has been made and information collected in regard to the possibilities of navigation in several rivers.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Has the Government felt it necessary to make any

arrangements with the Government of Pakistan to work out this Brahmaputra transport system affecting the States of Assam and West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I shall require notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: In the statement that was supplied to me it was stated that some Inland Steamer companies are also interested in this Board. May I know what those Inland Steamer companies are and whether they would make any contribution to this Board?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I require notice.

PASSENGER AMENITIES COMMITTEE

***136. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special passenger Amenities Committee has been formed for each of the Railways;

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

(c) what will be the constitution of this committee?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A passenger amenities committee has already been set up on the Central Railway and arrangements are being made to form similar committees also on other Railways.

(b) The functions of these committees will be to examine collectively the recommendations of all the Local Advisory Committees of a Railway or those emanating from the Railway itself or from other sources in regard to the provision of passenger amenities and to advise the General Manager on the necessity and the order of priority of the various amenity works.

(c) The committees will consist of the General Manager, the Heads of the Engineering, the operating and the Commercial Departments and two or three members from each of the local Advisory Committees of the Railway.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Committee will involve any extra expenditure?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Of course; T.A., D.A., etc., will involve extra expenditure.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the composition of this committee?

Shri L. B. Shastri: If the hon. Member puts down a question, I shall answer.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether representatives of Trade Unions will be represented on this committee to give advice on the various amenities that could be provided with the co-operation of labour?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No decision has been taken so far; but I propose to consider the matter.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS BY MECHANICAL POWER

***137. Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains produced on land cultivated by mechanical power and what its percentage is compared with total production of foodgrains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Estimates of foodgrains produced on land cultivated by mechanical power are available in respect of the areas taken under the Grow More Food Campaign only. In such areas, the total production of foodgrains from mechanical cultivation was about 2 lakh tons in each of the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 forming about 0.5 per cent. of the all-India production of cereals. Similar estimates for 1951-52 are not yet available.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the comparative cost of production by mechanical power and by other ordinary handpower?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice of that question.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Has the Government compared the results obtained by intensive production by ordinary methods with those by the mechanical method?

Shri Kidwai: Of course, the cost must have been compared. But I have not got the information here before me. The question was only about the quantity. It was not presumed that it would lead to cost, comparison etc.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: What is the total amount of expenditure incurred on the use of mechanical power.

Shri Kidwai: I have not got that.

TREATMENT OF BAMBOOS

***138. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an effective prophylactic treatment