

श्री एल बी शास्त्री : याद तो नहीं है ।  
लेकिन अगर नोटिस दें तो पता हो सकता  
है ।

INDO-U. S. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION  
AGREEMENT

\*2312. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what will be the estimated increase in production of foodgrains through the fertilizers to be supplied by the U. S. Government under the Indo-U. S. Technical Co-operation Agreement?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (**Shri Satish Chandra**): The increased production of foodgrains through the use of these fertilizers is estimated to be between 1½ and 2 lakh tons.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary**: May I know what is the price of these fertilizers per bag, and how it compares with that of the Indian fertilizers?

**Shri Satish Chandra**: The question relates to fertilizers which are to be supplied by the United States Government under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement. The prices for these fertilizers have not been fixed, as immediate payment is not to be made for them. The payment is to be made from a dollar fund to be created in the United States by the United States Government. These fertilizers will be purchased at the competitive market prices from the countries from which they are imported.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee**: Are we to understand from the reply just given, that we have no idea as to the amount of money which we are spending on these fertilizers, and in that case are we to assume that whatever calculation we have made in regard to the increase in production is more or less abracadabra?

**Shri Satish Chandra**: I do not think Sir, that increase in production bears any relation to prices. The increase in yield is obtained by the application of a particular quantity of a fertiliser to a particular area of the soil.

As regard the price, the agreement with the Technical Co-operation Administration is that the fertilizers will be made available to us at the world market prices. These are to be purchased not only in the United States, but may be purchased in some other countries like Holland and Japan etc. These will be available to us at the

market prices existing at the time of purchase.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee**: May I ask, Sir, whether it is in the contemplation of Government to change these items in the Technical Co-operation Agreement in view of the fact that at Sindhri we are trying to produce our own fertilisers, and that there might be other means of finding fertilisers which will in the long run be much more economical.

**Shri Satish Chandra**: The total requirement of fertilisers in the country is estimated to be 4,18,000 Tons, for the next year, while the production at Sindhri is estimated to be about 2 lakh tons only. So we have to fill the gap. Apart from 88,000 tons of ammonium sulphate that is being imported under this Agreement, the Government of India have already purchased about 82,000 tons from other countries.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee**: May I know whether the fertilizers we are going to get from the United States have been experimented with at all?

**Shri Satish Chandra**: Ammonium sulphate is used extensively in this country. Apart from 88,000 tons of ammonium sulphate, additional, 20,000 tons of new types of fertilizers are also being imported. They are mainly for experimental purposes. If the experiments fail, and they do not suit the Indian soil the payment of price will not be insisted upon.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya**: Are the Government aware that there is a very heavy stock of these chemical fertilizers in this country which could not be sold during the last year on account of drought?

**Shri Satish Chandra**: I do not think Sir, that it is a fact. It may be that in a particular area some stocks have not been sold, but taking the country as a whole there is a demand for increased supply.

**Shri P. C. Bose**: Is it a fact, Sir that ammonium sulphate is being produced in many coke plants in India?

**Shri Satish Chandra**: About 20,000 tons are obtained from coke plants in Bengal and Bihar. This quantity has been taken into account in calculating our requirements for the next year.

GARO HILLS AND MIKIR HILLS

\*2313. **Shri Beli Ram Das**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of short staple cotton are

grown in the districts of Garo Hills and Mikir Hills in the State of Assam:

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for long staple cotton which fetches better price; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to introduce long staple cotton in the aforesaid districts?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):**

(a) Almost all the cotton grown in Garo Hills is of the short staple variety and the production varies from 8,000 to 12,000 bales annually. The cotton grown in Mikir Hills is a mixture of short and medium staple varieties and the annual production ranges from 250 to 1,000 bales. The production of cotton in these Hills is a very small proportion, of the overall cotton production in India, which is of the order of 36 lakh bales.

(b) Yes.

(c) Since February 1947 the Indian Central Cotton Committee is financing a scheme for the improvement of hill cotton in Assam. Trials made under this scheme to grow long and medium stapled varieties from 1947-48 onwards have however so far proved unsuccessful.

**Shri Beli Ram Das:** Is it a fact, Sir, that for want of transport facilities these cotton growers in the districts of Garo Hills and Mikir Hills are not getting proper prices for their cotton?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Most of the cotton grown in Garo Hills is used for mixing with wool locally. It is not transported to long-distances, and the production is in very small quantity.

**Jonab Amjad Ali:** May I correct the hon. Member.....

**Shri Debeshwar Sharma:** What are the steps taken to encourage the growth of medium and long staple cotton?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Sir, certain varieties were tried in this area and the experiments indicated that with the exception of one or two varieties the climatic conditions of Assam did not suit most of the medium and long staple varieties of cotton.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** Is the hon. Minister aware that a large quantity of cotton is exported from Garo Hills through the agency of Ralli Bros. and that they have their own offices both in Mikir as well as in Garo?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is giving information about a certain state of things and suggesting that Ralli Bros. are mainly responsible for this state of things.

**Shri Sarmah:** The hon. Parliamentary Secretary told us that short staple cotton is grown in Garo Hills and medium staple is also grown in Mikir Hills. Then we have the answer that a certain organisation was experimenting to encourage medium and long staple cotton in Garo Hills and Mikir Hills. but that the experiment is failing. May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken and how the experiment is failing, whether by theoretical experiment or whether by actual growing it was found that the climate was unsuitable.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us not go into all those details.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The Indian Central Cotton Committee is financing the Government of Assam who are carrying on these experiments probably under their department of Agriculture.

**Shri Sarmah:** Has any experiment been.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. order. Next question.

#### DELHI-LUCKNOW RAILWAY TRAIN

\*2315. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Members of the State Legislature belonging to Mathura District requesting that the new train from Delhi to Lucknow should pass through Mathura and Agra to give facilities to them for their journey to Lucknow; and

(b) whether Government have taken any action and if so, what?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** (a) Yes. One was received.

(b) It has not been found feasible to accept the suggestion.

श्री कृष्ण चंद्र: क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि किन कारणों से यह मुनासिब नहीं समझा गया कि इस दरख्वास्त को मंजूर किया जाय ?

श्री एल. बी. शास्त्री : यह गाड़ी खास तौर पर इसलिये निकाली गई थी कि कोई तेज गाड़ी लखनऊ और दिल्ली के बीच में चले । अगर माननीय सदस्य की राय मंजूर की जाय तो जिस मंशा से यह गाड़ी