

gifts distributed. The real fact is this. In Mysore, there are some people who think it below their dignity to accept gifts that are doled. They are in distress on account of the continuous failure of rains during the last four years. In some villages, even middle-class men are in distress. They are not prepared to take help in the form of doled gifts. They are prepared to work in the community projects or common works such as silt clearance in tanks, construction of roads to villages etc. They are prepared to work and take food: not from doles.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nambar: Some more information is necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Enough has been asked. Next question: Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay.

Kumari Anate Manareve: On a point of order, Sir, when a questioner feels that the answer given to the question is not correct, is there any remedy for that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I can only say, further questioning is not the remedy. Next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: One more question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called the next question.

Shri Raghavaiah: It is directly relating to the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I know, I have passed on to the next question.

CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS

*880. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the estimates of cultivation and production in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 of rice, wheat, gram, sugarcane, potato, arhar, groundnut, mustard, linseed, cotton, jute, tea, coffee and tobacco in the whole of India?

(b) By what time the crop estimates of Rabi and Kharif crops are finalised and published?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Statement I giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Statement II containing the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [For (a) and (b). See Appendix V, annexure No. 23.]

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether the decrease in estimate in respect of rice, wheat, gram, groundnut, linseed and tobacco,

is confirmed by actual production also?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In many respects it has been, Sir. The decrease is generally due to adverse climatic conditions and weather conditions.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether it is possible to have an almost accurate estimate of the crops three or six months before they are sown, and if that is so, what is the agency giving information as to what is going to be produced, on which this estimate is made?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Estimates are estimates after all. Every care is taken to see that the estimates are correct. We have to depend on the agencies employed by the State Governments.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: I want to know the principle according to which these estimates are made.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are collected by village officers. I do not think there can be any principle.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is the patwarl the agency who gives all this information or is there any other officer?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any periodical conference of the officials who give these estimates, for comparing them with actuals for future guidance?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not aware.

DOCKYARD AT GEONKHALI

*881. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how far the Scheme of West Bengal Government to construct a Dockyard at Geonkhali on the Hooghly, 30 miles from Calcutta Dock and also to start a Salt Works there, has materialised?

(b) How far is Kolaghat Railway Station (Eastern Railway) from Geonkhali?

(c) How far will the coal traffic congestion be alleviated if a rail link is established between Kolaghat and Geonkhali?

(d) Have the Government of West Bengal given any information or submitted any proposal to the Planning Commission about the above-mentioned Schemes?

(e) If not, when are the Schemes expected to come before the Planning Commission?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) At the instance of the Government of West Bengal, the question of developing a port at Geonkhali was considered in 1949 and early in 1952. The proposal was not pursued.

The Government of India are not aware of any proposal to set up a salt works at Geonkhali. The West Bengal Government are contemplating the setting up of a salt works at Contal, some 40 miles from Geonkhali.

(b) 25 miles.

(c) The effect on railway transport would be negligible as the bulk of the coal for export will still have to move to Calcutta via Burdwan.

(d) and (e). The Planning Commission have no information on the subject.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Port authorities at Calcutta are also discussing about the establishment of a satellite port in Geonkhali, and if so, how far they have proceeded?

Shri Alagesan: This question has been considered by the Government in all its aspects. The Port Commissioners have also expressed their views in the matter. There is no justification for establishing a port at Geonkhali just now.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how Government are trying to relieve the serious coal congestion in the Calcutta port by not diverting the railway line from either Kolaghat or Bhogpur or Machhada to Geonkhali? What are the alternative proposals?

Shri Alagesan: At present sufficient facilities exist at Calcutta port to handle coal. There are about 8 berths for handling coal at present. Recently two cargo berths have been converted into coal berths. And the Calcutta Port is able to handle coal to the extent of 12,000 tons per day.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know Sir, whether Government is aware of the presidential address delivered by Mr. D. C. Driver of the Coal Consumers' Association in which he said that a foreign firm is going to establish a shipyard near Geonkhali?

Shri Alagesan: Some experts also have considered the case of Geonkhali, but they were of the opinion that Visakhapatnam is a more suitable site.

Shri S. C. Samanta: My question was whether a foreign firm has approached the Government of India or the West Bengal Government to start any such port here?

Shri Alagesan: I have no information on the subject.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Will Government place on the Table the latest report of the Calcutta Port Commissioners on this subject?

Shri Alagesan: If it is the desire of the hon. Member, it can be placed on the Table of the House.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: May we know briefly what their latest recommendation was as to how it was essential for the proper development and integration of Calcutta port?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have detailed information on the subject.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know Sir, whether there was any proposal for the establishment of an oil refinery also at Geonkhali?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir. That was also considered, and Messrs. Caltex Limited have chosen Visakhapatnam port for the establishment of an oil refinery.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has Government considered the desirability of proceeding with this Geonkhali scheme because that would incidentally help the process of rehabilitating refugees to a very considerable extent?

Shri Alagesan: The scheme is not suitable in several respects as there is no safe anchorage and all ships would have to proceed to docks necessitating a complete port set-up of pilots, tugs etc. It was also estimated that the annual turnover of the new port would not exceed 80,000 tons, and hence it was not a financially feasible proposition.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is it a fact that Indian ship owners have represented to the Government that there is a great deal of congestion in Calcutta and additional coal berths must be provided?

Shri Alagesan: I have already answered this question.

TUBE-WELLS IRRIGATION SCHEME

*833. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many tube-wells have so far been sunk according to the Tube-wells Irrigation Scheme started at the instance of the Central Government;