

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As I pointed out, "how many miles of road have been constructed upto October"—that is the question. It does not involve the question whether there is a proposal to construct a new road.

Shri Jasani: Can we have the State-wise mileage of roads?

Shri Alagesan: All that is supplied in the statement.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Once these roads are constructed, who bears the cost of maintenance—is it the State Government or the Central Government?

Shri Alagesan: The scheme is this. As far as National Highways in Part A and Part B States are concerned we are fully maintaining them and we are bearing the capital cost also. All roads in Part C and Part D States we are maintaining.

ESPLANADE MANSIONS AT CALCUTTA

*1096. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of over one lakh of rupees was spent by the Railway Administration on rent and maintenance of Watch and Ward staff on a portion of the Esplanade Mansions at Calcutta hired for Public Relations and Publicity Offices during the year 1948-49;

(b) whether it is a fact that the building remained vacant for three years and the expenditure on rent and Watch and Ward staff continued to be incurred all along; and

(c) who has been responsible for this loss?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No. The sum spent as rental and for the maintenance of the Watch and Ward staff during 1948-49 was Rs. 24,900.

(b) Yes. It remained vacant for nearly three years.

(c) The premises required extensive structural alterations and repairs before it could be made suitable for use for the office of Public Relations and Publicity work. The finalisation of estimates for the work and tenders took some time. Thereafter, progress of construction was slow due to scarcity of skilled labour on account of the Great Calcutta Killing of 1946 and the series of subsequent disturbances in Calcutta. The partition of the Bengal-Assam Railway then headquartered at Calcutta was another factor

which delayed the matter. The question of individual responsibility does not, therefore, arise.

Shri Krishna Chandra: May I know whether the Public Accounts Committee have made any observation on this matter?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to say at present, Sir.

Shri Krishna Chandra: Is it a fact that the Public Accounts Committee have expressed their strong disapprobation on this affair and have advised the Railway Administration that they should adopt some procedure by which this carelessness may be avoided?

Shri Alagesan: May be so.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether there is not enough accommodation in the Railway buildings themselves to accommodate this office?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are on a particular building why it is vacant? It may be used for that or another office. Why has it been vacant so long—that is the question.

Shri K. K. Basu: This Esplanade Mansions is a rented house. I want to know whether Government can shift to its own railway buildings. There were two head offices in Calcutta formerly.

Shri Alagesan: In fact the Railways then headquartered at Calcutta wanted to have a joint office for their public Relations and Publicity work and hence this building was taken over.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know if there is no alternative accommodation available and if it is necessary to pay so much rent?

Shri Alagesan: I am unable to answer the question, Sir.

Shri Krishna Chandra: Have the observations made by the Public Accounts Committee not been brought to the notice of the Department concerned?

Shri Alagesan: I did not say it was not brought to the notice of the Government. I said at present I have not got the information in my possession.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

*1097. **Shri Mohana Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether a meeting was recently held of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

(b) If so, is it a fact that they reviewed the existing schemes and also laid down further extension schemes?

(c) How far the work on hand has progressed?

(d) What are the details of the Schemes drawn up for the future?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. The Member is presumably referring to a Joint Meeting of the Boards of Research and Extension of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research held on the 30th and 31st October, 1952.

(b) The meeting was held to consider research schemes to be financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1953-54. The Boards considered a number of such schemes and referred the approved schemes to Scientific Committees for technical scrutiny. There was no question of revision of any particular scheme by the Boards.

(c) The progress of current schemes is generally satisfactory. An account of such schemes is usually given in the Annual Reports of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Copies of which are supplied to the Library of the House.

(d) A list of schemes considered at the meeting including new schemes is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 36].

Shri Mohana Rao: May I know what are the latest improved seed varieties of rice that have been evolved under this Council's guidance, and what steps are being taken to make these seed varieties cheaply and widely available to the peasants?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Recently we held a very big conference in Lucknow, and every effort is going to be made and previous efforts intensified so as to make the results of researches available to the peasants.

Shri Mohana Rao: What are the new improved fertilizers for wet-land crops that have been found under the guidance of this Council, and what steps are going to be taken to make these fertilizers cheaply and widely available to the cultivators?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: All fertilizers which it is desirable to use are being tried and recommended wherever necessary.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether steps have been taken to ensure accuracy in the matter of statistics issued by the Department?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any scheme has been evolved to make the Indian leather compare with the foreign.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought it is agriculture. Leather also...?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I know it, Sir, hides and skins come under this.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I could not have information about leather in this connection.

Shri B. S. Murthy rose—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It does not arise out of this question. The hon. Minister has said that he is not in a position to answer now.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I want to know whether it is entrusted with the research work in leather. There is also mention of hides and skins.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This last question "What are the details of the Schemes drawn up for the future?" There may be 50, 60. Is the hon. Minister expected to give the details of each one of them? There are other experts. If hon. Members are interested in a particular scheme, they will kindly put down another question. I am sure the hon. Minister will give all the necessary information.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The total number of the schemes is 151.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No expert in the world except God himself can do that.

Shri V. F. Nayar: The other day the hon. Minister said in answer to a question that over 25 per cent. of all cattle have tuberculosis. From the statement I see there are many schemes for fighting various cattle diseases. May I know, Sir, why, in view of the fact admitted by Government that 25 per cent. of cattle suffer from tuberculosis, no scheme has been included for fighting tuberculosis of cattle?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The schemes are proposed by the State Governments and research workers in all these fields. I am sure these are not the only schemes which are in operation. These 151 schemes are new schemes going to be considered for the year 1953-54. They do not include all the schemes that are already under trial.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There may be an existing scheme already for tuberculosis.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether this Research Institute considered other research schemes or works organised by private institutions like the Bose Institute in Bengal?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research considers all these schemes even from private persons and from private institutions.

Shri Raghaviah: In drawing up these schemes, may I know the number of experts that were invited from U.S.A?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are no experts so far as these schemes are concerned

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Member must have some information, this is merely something like fishing in the same water.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Minister aware that a new type of jute and cotton seeds have been successfully experimented in the Research Station of the Bose Institute in Calcutta?

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

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the scheme of the Madras Government has been referred back?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the scheme? Hon. Members ought not to be vague in these matters. They must have some reliable data, they must have some further questions or some representations. They should not just throw a question and wait for an answer and then start supplementaries on that answer. I am afraid I won't allow that question. The hon. Member did not have the courage to say he is not acquainted.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In the list which was laid on the Table of the House there is a scheme known as Delhi Milk Supply Scheme. May I know, Sir, what is the quantity of milk handled daily by this scheme and what percentage of the city's demand for milk is met by the Scheme?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The number of schemes is 151. What exactly is each scheme, what is the proportion, what is expected, these are all matters for detailed enquiry. The hon. Member may put down a question and draw the attention of the hon. Minister. Certainly, he will reply.

Shri V. P. Nayar: How far has the work in hand progressed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have already replied.

Shri V. P. Nayar: There is nothing in the statement.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have already said that the schemes which are already in hand are progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does he want an administration report here in the form of the 151 schemes, at what stage it was last year, at what stage it is this year. Such questions will not be allowed on the floor of the House. Hon. Members must also expect reasonable things. If hon. Members want further details they may kindly put down another question.

EXPERT ON VENEREAL DISEASES (VIST)

*1098. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether an expert on venereal diseases has come to India from United States of America?

(b) If so, who is the person, what are his qualifications and previous experiences?

(c) What are the financial commitments of the Government of India towards the maintenance of this expert?

(d) Where will the expert work, for what period and what will be the nature of the work to be done?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) Dr. W. H. Gaub. He possesses B.S. and M.S. degrees of the Rutgers University, New Brunswick and has the following experience:—

(i) Inspector of Preventive Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical School, from September, 1934 to July, 1940—(Honorary).

(ii) Director, Division of Laboratories, Tennessee, U.S.A.—from July, 1934 to July, 1940.

(iii) Senior Bacteriologist, U.S. Public Health Service—from May, 1942 to March, 1947.

(iv) Head of Laboratories, Washington State Health Department—from March, 1947 to July, 1949.

(v) Chief, Bacteriology and Parasitology, U.S. Public Health Service—since July, 1949.

(c) The expert has been sent by the W.H.O. and is paid by them. The Government of India have no direct financial commitment towards the