

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sometimes, some hon. Members unreasonably laugh. Therefore, hon. Member need not take notice of it. There is nothing in derision. Sometimes they laugh.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The Upgrading Committee recommended certain hospitals all over India for certain departments to be upgraded. I have no information about upgrading hospitals in Bihar. If the hon. Member wants information I shall give later. As regards the Venereal diseases department in Madras, it has done a lot of work and that has been recommended by the Committee. That is why the specialist comes to that institution: not for any other reason.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know how many rural hospitals have been recommended for upgrading by the Upgrading Committee?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No rural hospitals; I have no information in detail; if the hon. Member gives notice, I shall furnish particulars.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will proceed to the next question.

RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CUTTACK (STUDENTS)

*1099. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign and Indian students (separately) who are receiving training at the Central Rice-Research Institute, Cuttack (Orissa);

(b) the names of countries from which the foreign students have come;

(c) what is the duration of the term of training; and

(d) who will bear the expenses of the training of these students?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Fifteen Foreign and eight Indian students.

(b) Ceylon, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and India.

(c) Three months from 15th September, 1952.

(d) A statement showing how the cost will be shared between us and the Food and Agriculture Organisation is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 37]

Shri Sanganna: May I know the different sections of research in this institute?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Breeding and hybridisation.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether research in shifting cultivation, which is a problem in the Grow More Food scheme is carried on there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I thought the question was essentially about training, and not so far as the Research institution is concerned.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether our Government have any voice in the selection of these candidates?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is an international centre. So far as our representatives are concerned, they have been selected by us. We are having this centre on behalf of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. It is an international affair and students are sent by various Governments. So far as the Indian students are concerned, they are chosen by our Government.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: What are the qualifications required to undergo such training and what are the concessions given for backward class students?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid this does not refer to any particular caste or religion. The trainees are selected by the Governments concerned. They choose such persons as would benefit out of the training. No specific qualifications are laid down. It has been left to the individual Governments.

Shri M. D. Joshi: After the training is completed, will they be given any work to carry on research in rice growing areas in India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is expected; but we cannot force any Government to do what we want.

TEA GARDENS IN ASSAM

*1100. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of labourers affected as a result of the closure or intending closure of Tea gardens in Assam;

(b) the steps so far taken to provide them with alternative employment; and

(c) the facilities, if any, provided by the employers and Government for the unemployed plantation labour in Assam?