

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether government is considering....

Mr. Speaker: It practically comes to the same thing. He may put it in any language he likes, but still it is a suggestion. Let us be more strict in the observance of the rules, so that a larger number of question may be put.

DRY FARMING METHODS

*333. **Shri Chinaria:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have tried Dry Farming methods for bringing self-sufficiency in foodgrains and making dry unirrigated areas immune from famine through drought; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India sanctioned Dry Farming Schemes in various States during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52. Statements showing the targets and achievements of units of work and additional production in respect of these Schemes are attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 23].

Shri Chinaria: May I know what arrangements were made to make them reach the cultivator? Or were they meant only for the scientists?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Some efforts we have made, but we are going to intensify our efforts hereafter.

Shri Chinaria: Are the government aware that in other foreign countries successful crops are grown under similar conditions, while in India we fail under exactly similar conditions?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have to improve ourselves a lot.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know whether dry farming is being introduced in every state or only in a few states like Rajasthan?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I cannot answer the question off hand.

RESTORATION OF LOCAL TRAIN FROM AMGAON TO GONDIA

*334. **Shri Jasani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any application from Shri Kasturchand Jain on behalf of the residents of Amgaon town and surrounding villages addressed to the General Manager, Eastern Railway, Calcutta requesting for the restoration of the local train from Amgaon to Gondia and vice-versa was received by Government; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) As the availability of passenger coaches and locomotives improves Railway Administrations will continue to restore passenger train services and introduce new ones as justified by traffic requirements. The Amgaon-Gondia train service is one of the train services on the Eastern Railway's priority list of trains to be restored and introduced as soon as feasible.

Shri Jasani: May I know how much time will be taken for the restoration of this train service?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: There is no possibility of its being restored within the next 18 months.

PANIWALA MAHARAJ

*335. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Minister of Agriculture recently made a statement regarding the capacities of the water diviner who was appointed a Member of the Rajasthan Underground Water Board;

(b) the total amount of money spent on the said Paniwala Maharaj, and the period of his service under the Board; and

(c) the number of localities inspected by Paniwala Maharaj for water and the number out of those localities, where water was found with his help?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Paniwala Maharaj remained with the Rajasthan Underground Water Board for 2 years and 8 months and was paid Rs. 74,322/9/- during that period against which Rs. 37,192/8/- were recovered as advice charges.

(c) According to information available with the Board, 128 sites were selected by the Paniwala Maharaj. Wells were dug at 29 sites and water was found in 21 of them.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: Who was responsible for his appointment?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like notice for that question.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: The hon. Minister stated that some portion of the money has been recovered. From whom?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Recovered from the Saurashtra Government. If I may inform the House, the advice of this gentleman was available at the rate of Rs. 150 per day, and I am glad to say that his advice was availed of to the extent of about Rs. 37,000.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AGRICULTURAL LOAN

*321. **Shri Biren Dutt:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amount of agricultural loan has so far been given to the agriculturists in the year 1952 in Tripura?

(b) After presentation of petition how much time it takes to grant the loan?

(c) Is there any direction of the Central Government not to grant a loan of more than Rs. 100?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A sum of Rs. 1,30,000/- has been advanced as loan to the agriculturists in Tripura State during the financial year 1952-53.

(b) Loans are granted at the earliest possible date, generally within a month of the receipt of the application.

(c) No directive has been issued by the Government of India.

POST CARDS AND ENVELOPES (COST)

*332. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the net cost of a post card (inland) to Government and how is it calculated?

(b) What is the net cost of a stamped postal envelope, and how is it calculated?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The total net cost to the Department of a post card is 13-2 pies and that of an envelope is 14-4. pies. This is made up of

(i) the cost of manufacture of the post card or envelope;

(ii) all the other direct expenses of handling, and

(iii) the indirect or overhead expenses on supervision, including pensionary charges, interest on capital etc. The cost of manufacture alone which includes the cost of paper, packing etc. is only 1-33 pies for a post card and 1-38 pies for an envelope. Thus, the cost of the manu-

facture forms only a very small proportion of the total cost of these items. When a post card or envelop is posted in any of the post boxes provided by the Department, it has to be collected from that post box, taken to the nearest post office, sorted and sent to the nearest Railway Station, Railway Mail Service Section or Aerodrome, then transported to the destination and again sorted before delivery from the receiving post office and then delivered. The total expenditure to the Department includes the direct costs of these items of work as well as indirect charges on account of overheads, interest on capital etc. A note on how the total cost is calculated is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 24.]

FAMINE AREA

*336. **Shri Jhunjhuwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any part of India was declared as Famine areas during the years 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52;

(b) if the answer to the part (a) above be in the affirmative, which were those areas; and

(c) what was the total amount of financial assistance the Central Government gave?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 'Famine' in the technical sense contemplated in the different Indian Famine Codes was not declared in any areas in India during these years.

(b) and (c). The questions do not arise.

INTERNATIONAL SOIL FERTILITY TRAINING CENTRE

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Training Centre on Soil Fertility under the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme was recently held in India;

(b) if so, for what period and where;

(c) who were the trainers and the trainees; and

(d) whether India had to meet any expenditure in this connection?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.