

overall increase in the size of the railway and police establishment.

Shri P. Subba Rao: Does not the Government think that by prosecuting these beggars, the nuisance will be brought under control?

Shri Alagesan: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They will get food in the jails.

Shri P. Subba Rao: Simply being turned out is no good.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Punnoose: Are these beggars allowed a place in the Five-Year Plan?

Shri Bagbavalaiah: May I know whether the Railway Ministry is contemplating liquidating the beggar nuisance in trains in the course of the Five-Year Plan?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is an all India problem. It is for the States to tackle it.

Sardar A. S. Salgal: Is it a fact that beggars with leprosy are travelling in the Eastern Railway Zone from Bhamapur to Katni and Bilaspur to Charadharpur and take rice and smuggle them into other provinces?

Shri Alagesan: With the change in the food policy, smuggling has very much decreased in all areas.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: As a large part of the stealing is done by small children who are encouraged to beg on the platforms, what steps are being taken to prevent them from doing so?

Shri Alagesan: As soon as they are found, they are taken out.

Shri Bagbavalaiah: May I know whether the number of beggars is increasing or decreasing?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That has been answered in the first part of the question. Apart from the Question Hour being over, the Question List is also over. There are three short notice questions. The first one is by Shri Kanavade Patil, relating to food scarcity in Maharashtra.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): There is another short notice question on the same subject. If this is also put, the two questions may be answered together.

Short Notice Questions And Answers

FOOD SCARCITY IN MAHARASHTRA

I. Shri Kanavade Patil: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any demand for loan from the Central Government has been made by the State Government of Bombay to meet the famine conditions in Maharashtra?

(b) Are Government in possession of any report from that area of famine and scarcity conditions?

(c) Do Government propose to send a special officer to inquire into the situation?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

FOOD SCARCITY IN MAHARASHTRA

II. Shri S. S. More: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Central Government have received any reports from the Bombay State Government giving details about the famine, prevailing in some of the districts in Maharashtra, particularly Sholapur District?

(b) Have Government received any details about the number of cattle which have perished for want of fodder or purchasing capacity of the famine-stricken people?

(c) Has any demand for loan from the Central Government been made by the State Government in Bombay to meet the famine conditions in Maharashtra?

(d) Have Government any information about the large number of persons who are leaving their homes and hearths in search of employment?

(e) Do Government propose to send a special officer immediately to enquire into the seriousness of the situation?

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

(b) No cattle death for want of fodder or purchasing capacity of people has been reported to Government.

(c) Yes.

(d) Migration on more than usual scale from affected parts to non-affected parts of Sholapur district and from East Khandesh to neighbouring areas in Madhya Pradesh has been reported. No definite figures of migration are available.

(e) Yes.