

from any of the foreign countries for advising the Government on the prevention of soil erosion?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice; but I do not think so.

Shri N. M. Liagam: Since soil conservation involves costly agronomic practices by the ryots, has Government considered the proposal of subsidising ryots in carrying out these methods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. There are certain schemes which have operated in Bombay State, which have been subsidised. I think the amount is ten per cent, of the total cost; and that is divided between the State Government and the Central Government.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if the trainees have been sent at the cost of the Central Government or the State Government, and whether the trainees have been sent at the request of the State Government or on the initiative of the Centre?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is a matter more than two years old, Sir, and I have not got the information.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Central Government to start such centres for carrying research in this subject?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are certain centres already being organised by the State Governments. I do not think anything more than that is proposed for the present.

Shri M. D. Joshi: May I know how many cases of soil erosion have been submitted by the Bombay Government to the Centre for aid?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are 'no cases' as such. There is a scheme about which I know, Sir, and we are giving as much assistance to the Bombay State as possible so far as this matter is concerned.

Shri N. M. Liagam: May I know the extent to which afforestation has been carried out with a view to prevent soil erosion?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Inspector-General of Forests attached to this Ministry gives advice from time to time so far as this subject is concerned and wherever it is possible afforestation has been undertaken.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that the experts have reported that the recurrent floods in Assam are caused

by soil erosion and therefore forest afforestation should be made and that Government has no plans for afforestation.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This question of soil erosion is a very big issue. According to a rough calculation more than one million acres of land in India is seriously affected by it. It is not possible to keep pace with soil erosion in all these States and for the Central Government to assist, but the Central Government tries to do its best.

Shri T. Subrahmanyam: Are there any schemes of soil conservation in operation in the Madras State?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Madras is one of the States where there is both research and actual soil conservation.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether any area of the Chambal basin is worst affected by soil erosion and what is the area so affected?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is a very large area. As I have already pointed out, I have not got the figures of area where damage has been caused.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether this scheme to prevent soil erosion is there in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think so. West Bengal does not find a place in the list of States I have given. I do not know the particular area.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Arising out of the Minister's answer, may I know what steps have been taken to prevent soil erosion by the Krishna river?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): I think this question should be put to the Madras Legislature.

MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

*1183. **Shri V. B. Gandhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the replies to Starred Questions Nos. 470 and 490 asked on the 19th November, 1952 and state whether it is a fact that taxes on motor vehicles and sales of petrol are being levied in certain States, which will make the implementation of the recommendations of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Enquiry Committee difficult?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The effects of the taxes on Motor Vehicles and sales of petrol being levied in States at present are being studied by the Technical Committee of the Transport Advisory Council whose Report is expected to be submitted very shortly.

(b) The whole question of taxation of motor vehicles with reference to the recommendations of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Enquiry Committee will be discussed with representatives of States Governments at the meeting of the Transport Advisory Council in January 1953 and such action as is necessary and possible will be taken by Government after those discussions.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Is it a fact that the Technical Committee was supposed to report in the early part of December?

Shri Alagesan: It will be submitting its report very soon and the report will be considered at a meeting of the Transport Advisory Council which is to be held in January. Before that they will be submitting their report.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Will the Report of the Technical Committee be circulated to members?

Shri Alagesan: I do not think it is possible.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Will Government please tell us what steps they propose to take to abolish the Inter-State taxes on motor vehicles?

Shri Alagesan: These and other things will be considered in that meeting.

Shri V. B. Gandhh: Is it the intention of Government to fix a ceiling on sales tax on petrol?

Shri Alagesan: It is to be discussed with the representatives of the various State Governments.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether Government are taking any steps to end the deadlock in certain States regarding Inter-State movement of traffic?

Shri Alagesan: We are not aware of any deadlock.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: In spite of the fact that Assam produces petrol, is it a fact that the price of petrol in Assam is the highest in India?

Shri Alagesan: I have no information.

THE HIND FLYING CLUB, LUCKNOW

*1184. **Sardar A. S. Salgal:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether a plane belonging to the Hind Flying Club, Lucknow crashed between Terangna and Patna junction Railway Station on or about 22nd November, 1952?

(b) How many passengers were there in the plane?

(c) How many died and how many were seriously injured?

(d) Has any inquiry been made and what are the causes of the accident?

(e) What arrangements were made to give first aid to the injured persons?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) One.

(c) None was killed but the pilot trainee was seriously injured.

(d) The accident is under investigation.

(e) They received first aid at the Terangna village dispensary before they were removed to Patna by train and admitted the same night into the General Hospital.

EVICTON OF LABOURERS

*1186. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 100 families and labourers from famine-stricken areas of Salem District, who have come in search of work, are living in hutments on the slopes of the embankment of the overbridge near New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have been asked to vacate immediately;

(c) whether it is a fact that these families have no means to move to any other place; and

(d) whether Government will give them some space early and give financial assistance to build hutments before they are asked to vacate?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There