

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): There is no loss; perhaps, there is a gain.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOBACCO

***492. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for the development of tobacco for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan is in hand;

(b) whether the recommendations of Planning Sub-Committee of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee in this connection have been received; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Proposals about tobacco development for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan are still under the consideration of Government.

Shri Amjad Ali: Have the State Governments been given any direction in order to see that tobacco cultivation is taken up seriously?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are more anxious to reduce the acreage.

SEA FREIGHT ON IRON ORE

***493. Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Continental Lines increased the freight on Iron Ore by 5 shillings some time in November, 1954 and by another 2½ shillings on the 7th January, 1955 without notice to the Trade;

(b) whether it is a fact that owing to the inability to use trampers freight for the deferred rate, Indian shippers cannot compete in C.I.F. cost in the consuming countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir. It is understood that no notice was given by the Conference about these increase as it is customary for them to give such notice in respect of general increases and not in respect of increases for individual commodities;

(b) Trampers freight rates vary from time to time depending upon the market whereas Conference rates are fixed over a period of time. It cannot therefore, be said that trampers freight rates will always be cheaper and will go to reduce the C.I.F. cost in the consuming countries.

(c) The Government have taken up the question of abolishing the deferred rebate system on shipments of iron ore from Calcutta with the Calcutta Continental Conference and it is now understood that the Conference have since abolished the deferred rebate system and introduced a nett rate system.

STAFF OF PANAGARH AIR BASE

***494. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any Memorandum dated the 3rd December 1954 from the General Secretary, Aero Employees' Union, West Bengal, Calcutta Airport, Dum Dum, in regard to the equipment and staff of the Panagarh Air Base; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The representation is under consideration.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: May I know whether the staff of the Panagarh air base are registered under the Factories Act and whether they are not people privileged to get all the facilities that they are entitled to under that Act?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as we are concerned, there is only one permanent employee who has been posted