

Shri Subodh Hasda: May I know whether the productivity of soil in our country is very low in comparison to other countries?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think it is low. If anything, it is higher. But we have used it somewhat unfairly. We have not tried to put back into the soil what we have taken from it.

Shri Subodh Hasda: Is it a fact that the productivity of soil in our country is decreasing due to the wrong application of this chemical fertilizer?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. That is the only remedy to improve it.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to the alarming report that has been published from time to time has been opinion of recognised experts as to the danger of soil erosion, and may I know whether that has any effect with regard to the productivity of soil in our country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These generally emanate from the brain of some cranky fellows. Generally speaking, there is unanimity of opinion that chemical fertilizers are better for productivity of soil.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: He has not understood my question.

Mr. Speaker: He may repeat it, without comment.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that recognised experts hold that soil erosion will constitute a grave danger to the productivity of our soil, whether that opinion is based on a fact or not?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, soil erosion does; not chemical fertilizer.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I never said chemical fertilizer.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Erosion is a very big menace.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Do I understand the Minister to say that chemical fertilizers by themselves when used in the soil are not harmful to

the soil, or does he maintain that the use of chemical fertilizer along with organic fertilizers is not harmful?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not think any farmer is foolish enough to rely upon chemical fertilizers by themselves. They are always to be used along with other manures.

BRIDGES UNDER SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

*1691. **Shri A. R. Sewal:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Himachal Pradesh Government have submitted a comprehensive scheme to be included in the Second Five Year Plan for bridging the rivers Giri, Sutlej, Beas, Ravi etc., in the interior of Himachal Pradesh, where people experience great hardships especially during the rainy season?

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

श्री भक्त वरदान: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में कितनी लप्याँ की मांग की हैं और केंद्रीय सरकार कितनी सहायता देने वाली हैं?

श्री शाहनवाज खां: अभी तक इसका आखिरी फँसला नहीं हुआ है।

श्री भक्त वरदान: मांग कितनी की है यह तो बताया जा सकता है।

रंलबे तथा परिचहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री): पांच साल की प्लान के लिए करीब पांच करोड़ रुपए की मांग है।

पर्यटक केंद्र

*१६९२. **श्री राम शंकर लाल:** क्या परिचहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि मगहर, जिला बस्ती, उत्तर प्रदेश में, सन्त कबीरदास की समाधि को पर्यटक केंद्र के रूप में विकसित करने का विचार है?

रंलबे तथा परिचहन मंत्री के सभासचीव (श्री शाहनवाज खां): जी, नहीं।

CORRUPTION AMONGST RAILWAY STAFF

*1693. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the