

Shri Abid Ali : It is proposed to conduct another Agricultural Labour Enquiry during 1956-57 which it is hoped will reveal the extent of prosperity agricultural labour has achieved as a result of the development schemes undertaken in the First Five Year Plan.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know whether the schemes that are proposed to be carried out in the Second Five Year Plan have already been prepared by Government?

Shri Abid Ali : These are being prepared.

SETHU-SAMUDRAM PROJECT

***181. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee to examine and report on the feasibility and desirability of connecting the gulf of Mannar and the Palk Bay by cutting a channel at the approaches to the Adam's Bridge for enabling deep sea ships to navigate in safety from the West to the East Coast of India, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative the reasons for the delay?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the course of its deliberations at the first two meetings the Committee came to the conclusion that certain further data should be collected. This is being done.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : In the Gazette notification announcing the appointment, I remember to have seen a time-limit fixed that they should submit the report by the end of January. May I know how was the time-limit put there?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : If any committee cannot finish its deliberations in time, it asks for extension of time.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : May I know if it is possible to get this report before the draft Five Year Plan is finalised?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : I am unable to say anything on this point.

Shri Matthen : In view of the great advantage that will accrue to Indian shipping by the opening of this channel and generally to the development of economy in the south of India which is already neglected, will the hon. Minister give this matter special top priority?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : The committee has been appointed and certain essential data is being collected. We are doing whatever is possible to expedite it. We cannot do anything unless the necessary data is available.

LAND RECLAMATION

***182. Shri Radha Raman :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated amount of annual additional production from land reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation; and

(b) the expenditure incurred in the reclamation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : (a) 2,26,000 tons.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on the C. T. O. for the period 1946-47 to 1954-55 is Rs. 10,40,14,780.

Shri Radha Raman : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the State-wise figures of reclamation?

Shri A. P. Jain : I have got those figures with me but it is a big list. If the hon. Member wants I shall place it on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Shri Velayudhan : May I know what were the findings of certain enquiry committee regarding the CTO; whether it had made any suggestions regarding the heavy expenditure this organisation had incurred and what