

can be undertaken during the Second Plan period.

Shri Matthen: May I know when the Ministry is hoping to pass orders on this question?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, the Committee which went into this question calculated the cost just under Rs. 10 crores. But this question was considered at various inter-departmental meetings and it is now estimated that it will cost much more than that. So, a fresh calculation is being made by the Development Adviser in the Transport Ministry. As soon as he submits the cost and his estimates of the financial return of the project, then it will be time to take a decision in the matter.

Shri Matthen: I just wanted to know when the Government would be able to pass orders or what time they would need approximately for it.

Shri Alagesan: I can only say that it will take some more time.

Shri Matthen: May I know what is the saving in running cost per trip if this project is completed?

Shri Alagesan: In distance there will be a saving of 300 miles or so. This has been calculated by the Committee and I do not have the exact

figure, but it is feared that ocean-going vessels may not use this short route even after it is completed, but it will be useful to coastal trade.

Shri Matthen: I want to know the cost in rupees, annas, pies and not in miles.

Shri Alagesan: Some calculations have been made in the Report, but I do not have the Report here with me, and so it can be referred to by the hon. Member.

Central Tractor Organization

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 69; Shri Kamath.

Shri Kamath: This question may be answered along with my Unstarred Question No. 24.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow it. Only Question No. 69 need be answered now.

*69. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the tractorisation rate per acre proposed to be charged by the Central Tractor Organisation during the year 1957-58?

The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The existing C.T.O.'s. rates are as follows:

1. Jungle clearance in Madhya Pradesh.
2. Jungle clearance in Assam.
3. Land development work in Bihar.
4. Kans clearance work in Madhya Pradesh

Rs. 50—per hour subject to a ceiling of Rs. 500—per acre.

Rs. 45—per hour subject to a ceiling of Rs. 315—per acre.

Rs. 50—per hour.

Rs. 35—per acre for ploughing work.
Rs. 35—per hour for clearance work preparatory to ploughing.

C.T.O.'s programme of work and the rates for the season 1957-58 have not yet been finalised, but the existing rates for jungle clearance operations in Madhya Pradesh will continue.

Shri Kamath: Is there any proposal before Government to apply these reduced rates with retrospective effect, that is to say, with effect from 1953 and 1954, when higher rates were charged as much as Rs. 65 per acre?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There is no such proposal, and we have recovered most of the amounts the State Government owed to us.

Shri Kamath: Have any representations been received from Kisan Sabhas and various other peasant organisations from Madhya Pradesh, U.P., Bihar and Assam, to the effect that kisans there have been unable to pay the very high rates in the previous years and that, therefore, the reduced rates should be applied retrospectively?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is true that there were so many representations made to the State Governments, and the State Governments have represented to us also, but I would like to bring to the hon. Member's notice that though the cost is now Rs. 60 per acre, we are charging only Rs. 35 and subsidising to the extent of Rs. 25 per acre. We are charging only Rs. 35 to the State Government and subsidising about Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per acre.

Shri Kamath: What are the reasons for applying differential rates in different States?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That depends upon the nature of the soil, the nature of the work, the nature of the forest that we are going to clear; for instance, if the trees are big, we charge more and if the trees are small, we charge less.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: In regard to the utilisations of the Central Tractor Organisation for private purposes, may I know whether the rate is charged on a 'no-profit-no-loss' basis or on a profit basis?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This is not to private parties; this is done to State Governments and we are subsidising the reclamations.

Shri Kamath: Have the various State Governments, particularly Madhya Pradesh, indicated or represented to the Government here that recoveries of these charges on this account have been under heavy arrears because the kisans have not been able to pay the high rates?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is why the Government of India have taken these arrears in the G.M.F. Scheme and are going to recover them in easy instalments.

Tuticorin Express Accident

*70. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether compensation has been fully paid to the relatives of the victims of Madras-Tuticorin Express Accident at Ariyalur?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Not yet, Sir.

The special Claims Commissioner appointed in this case has so far disposed of 135 out of 258 claims received.

Passenger Amenities

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

(a) whether the Committee appointed to go into the question of amenities for passengers travelling in Third Class have since submitted their findings;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations;

(c) whether the same have been examined by the Railway Board; and

(d) if so, the nature of the decision arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Not yet.