

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.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know if those three officers who have been entrusted with this work have to do this work in addition to their duties or have they been fully relieved of their own duties?

**Shri Alagesan:** That was one of the reasons for the delay in the submission of the Report.

**Shri Kamath:** Have the Government dispensed with the practice of showing construction of buildings under the head 'passenger amenities'? Has that practice been abandoned or not?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not know how it arises exactly out of this question.

**Shri Kamath:** The expenditure on the construction of buildings was unfortunately being shown in the estimates under the head 'passenger amenities'....

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us deal with the Report of the Committee now.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know whether any suggestions have been invited from the Zonal Users Consultative Committee, and if invited, what are their suggestions regarding this Report?

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not follow the hon. Member. Does he want to know whether this Committee invited the suggestions of the Zonal Users Committee?

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Yes.

**Shri Alagesan:** I do not think this Committee invited suggestions about this. The terms of reference for the Committee relate to the provision of more conveniences to passengers by increasing the capacity of water tank in third classes and by providing automatic water taps. One of the terms of reference is to examine the feasibility of revising the present design and providing wash basin, water pipe and storage tank, etc. So, specific suggestions from the Committee have not been invited. The officers themselves will go and find out the possibilities and then make their recommendations.

### Tawa Multipurpose Project

\*72. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 42 on the 15th November, 1956 and state:

(a) when work in connection with the execution of the Tawa multipurpose project (Hoshangabad district, Madhya Pradesh) is scheduled to commence; and

(b) the details of the phased programme of work decided in connection therewith?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Preliminary works such as approach roads and surveys for the lay-out of buildings have been started.

(b) Not yet finalised.

**Shri Kamath:** When was this work started exactly?

**Shri Hathi:** About eight months back.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that Government had proposed that the foundation-stone of the Tawa project should be laid by the President himself on the 26th January, 1957, and it was given up, and if so, what are the reasons for that?

**Shri Hathi:** On the examination of the project survey, certain technical points arose and these points have been referred to the State Government. It is likely that we may increase the capacity of the reservoir and also increase the power etc. The State Government is examining these points.

### CONVERSION OF UNSTARRED QUESTIONS INTO STARRED QUESTIONS

**Shri Kamath:** Sir, on Saturday, I made a special request that in the public interest two questions which were put as 'unstarred', especially the one relating to the drinking water supply in Delhi, might be answered in the House. I requested you to exercise your discretion in the public interest and allow this question to be answered.