

(b) The post of Agricultural Commissioner is technical but not that of the Extension Commissioner.

Recruitment to Senior Posts

1870. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the procedure for recruitment to senior posts of specialists on subjects like Horticulture, Poultry, Soils, Information etc.?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): The senior posts of Specialists on subject like Horticulture, Poultry, Soils, Information, etc., are filled in accordance with the recruitment rules framed in respect of each individual post with the concurrence of the Union Public Service Commission, either by open advertisement through the Union Public Service Commission or from among serving officers of State Governments on a tenure basis or by transfer on deputation of suitable officers from State Governments or from the Central Government.

Package Programme

1871. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per-district outlay, in terms of money, for the Package Programme; and

(b) how it compares with the proposed outlays for the new districts being brought under the Programme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House showing the per-district outlay, in terms of money for—[See Appendix II, annexure No. 62]

(i) the first 7 districts of the Package Programme; and

(ii) the 8 districts selected subsequently for inclusion in the Programme.

Training Schemes on Rural Development

1872. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) when the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation handles training schemes on rural development, why should Gramsevaks alone be trained under a different agency, namely Directorate of Extension under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 40 candidates are being sent abroad for extension training when the present foreign exchange position is so tight;

(c) whether Government have not enough trained officials in Extension work during the last ten years to build up a nucleus for giving training; and

(d) whether extension is such a specialized subject needing laboratory and other facilities which are not likely to be available in the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) The main role of the Gramsevaks is to assist the farmers in adopting improved agricultural practices and raising the standard of farming in the villages. The content of training of the Gramsevaks must, therefore, necessarily have a predominant agricultural bias. For this reason the Department of Agriculture is the most appropriate agency for arranging training of this category.

(b) It is tentatively proposed to depute about 40 candidates abroad for extension training during 1963 but no foreign exchange is involved as the entire expenditure on the to-and-fro travel of the trainees as well as their maintenance abroad is to be met by the United States Agency for International Development.

(c) No, as during 1951 to 1961 only 33 persons have received higher training in foreign countries in the field