

desirable in India under any circumstances and that its prohibition should be enforced by law. In order to achieve this end, the Committee suggested the following measures:—

(1) Total prohibition of slaughter of all useful cattle other than indicated below:

(a) Animals over 15 years of age and unfit for work and breeding.

(b) Animals of any age permanently unable to work or breed owing to age, injury or deformity.

(2) Unlicensed and unauthorised slaughter of cattle should be prohibited immediately and should be made a cognizable offence under law.

(3) The law for prohibiting slaughter of cattle totally should be enforced as early as possible but in any case within two years of enactment of legislation during which period necessary arrangements should be made for the maintenance of unserviceable and unproductive cattle.

The Government of India, after eliciting the opinion of most State Governments, decided to accept the first two recommendations. Since prohibition of cattle slaughter came with the law making power of the State Governments a model Bill was drafted and commended to State Governments for adoption.

As regards the third recommendation of the Committee the matter was further examined in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and it was decided that indiscriminate stoppage of slaughter was a wasteful policy likely to have the most detrimental effect not only on the export and trade of hides and skins but also on the economic position of the country. The State Governments were accordingly advised that no legal restrictions on slaughter of unproductive and useless cattle should be imposed by the State without first providing for sufficient number of Gosadans to cater for all unproductive and useless cattle.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have requested the Central Council of Gosamvardhana which has been constituted recently, to review the entire question relating to slaughter of cattle in India and the decision when taken will be made known.

UNEMPLOYMENT

644. **Shrimati Sushama Sen:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have the latest statistics of the growing unemployment in the country?

(b) What classes of the population are worst affected by unemployment?

(c) Are Government in a position to furnish figures about unemployment State-wise and industry-wise?

The Minister of Labour (Smt V. V. Giri): (a) The only statistics available to Government regarding unemployment are those provided by the Employment Service, which, as is well known, has a limited function. Registration for employment at Exchanges is purely voluntary. The figures may be a little more than a reflection of urban and suburban unemployment.

(b) In the absence of reliable statistics, it is not possible to say what classes are worst affected.

(c) No.

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD ON FOREST UTILISATION

647. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether, since the reconstitution of the Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation in 1948, there has been any change in the constitution and functions of the Board;

(b) if so, what is the present position in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of India have appointed an Executive Committee of the Board recently;

(d) if so, what will be the precise functions and constitution of the Committee; and

(e) whether the Board or its Executive Committee has suggested any change in the Forest Policy of Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No; the Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation was reconstituted in 1949 (and not in 1948) and since then there has been no change to its constitution and functions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.