

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): 123,700 tons upto 15th December, 1952.

INDO-AMERICAN TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

853. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 746 asked on the 27th November, 1952, and state what kind of facilities are made available to the American Director and his team of experts for supervising the expenditure of the fund under the Indo-American Technical Co-operation Agreement?

(b) Are these facilities reciprocal, and the same are provided to Indian officers in America, who might be there on similar mission?

(c) If so, what are the names and designations of such Indian officers?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Fund is utilized for execution of agreed projects. I would invite the attention to the Operational Agreements, copies of which were laid on the Table of the House in reply to Question Nos. 713 and 253 on the 11th June and the 25th June, 1952, respectively.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS

854. Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a very large number of workers, working at various Irrigation Projects are not covered by the various labour laws;

(b) whether it is a fact that the nature of work, specially at the sites of construction of dams is hazardous, and the number of accidents is comparatively high;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to protect the workers there; and

(d) whether Government have received a representation from the accredited Trade Unions making a request that these areas may be treated as Factory areas, and the provisions of that Act be applied to them and if so, what have Government decided in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) to (d). Information is being collected from State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course. In this connection, I would invite the

attention of the Member to the reply to the starred question No. 780, dated, the 27th November, 1952, regarding applicability of labour laws to workers employed at certain major River Valley Projects.

FORBESGANJ-RAJHOPURE RAILWAY LINE

855. Shri L. N. Mishra: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any representation has been made to Government for restoration of railway line from Forbesganj to Rajhopore via Pratapganj (N. E. Railway) in Bihar?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken so far in the matter?

(c) Is it a fact that the Central Jute Committee of India has suggested some railway lines for providing transport facilities to the jute growers of the said belt of Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is under investigation.

(c) In December 1949, the Indian Central Jute Committee suggested:

(1) Extension of the Katihar-Murliganj section to Saharsa through Madhepura.

(2) Extension of the existing railway line from Saharsa to Parsarama to Nirmali through Supaul.

(3) Making the Mansi-Saharsa line serviceable throughout the year by constructing bridges, where necessary.

These suggestions were considered by the Central Board of Transport at their meeting on 25-7-51 and they decided the Murliganj-Madhepura line should be taken in hand. The work is in progress.

RAW LAC

856. Shri Jasani: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to my starred question No. 890 asked on the 3rd December, 1952 regarding shellac and state what steps have so far been taken by Government to give protection to the producers and cultivators of raw lac who have suffered heavy loss on account of Shellac Market which has been adversely affected by the activities of the speculators?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The Indian Lac