

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** From the statement, the hon. Member will find that there are three hospitals in Delhi—Irwin Hospital, New Delhi, the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, New Delhi, and Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Delhi.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Are the Government aware that in these hospitals, excepting in the Shroff's hospital, the eye tests are taken by compounders? I am talking from experience.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are talking of training in ophthalmology, not eye treatment. The hon. Member is straying away from one subject to the other.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know whether any recurring grant will be given to the Aligarh University for this purpose?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** No, Sir.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Have the Government any proposal to upgrade the courses of training, and if so is ophthalmology one of them?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** Where is it going to be upgraded?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** If the State Governments or institutions interested in ophthalmology apply to the Central Government, necessary steps will be taken for upgrading.

#### LOANS FOR PURCHASE OF FERTILIZER

\*569. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the short term loan of Rs. 2.90 crores granted to ten State Governments to finance the purchase of the fertilizer from Sindri factory, is to be repaid;

(b) whether these short term loans are interest-free:

(c) if not, the rate of interest chargeable from such States as have received the loans:

(d) whether Government will place on the Table of the House a statement containing the amounts of loans State-wise up-to-date: and

(e) how it is ensured that the loan given is utilised for the purpose for which it is meant?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The loans sanctioned for purchase and distribution of fertilisers are repayable on or before the 30th June, 1954.

(b) No.

(c) 3.125 per cent. per annum.

(d) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 10].

(e) This is ensured by the fact that loans are sanctioned only on the basis of actual despatch instructions and the debits for the cost of the fertiliser have to be accepted immediately by the State Governments against these loans.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Are the loans which have been advanced to these States repayable annually, or after a long number of years?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** They are repayable in the course of the year, but the period is long enough, up to 30th June of the next year.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know whether the entire loan has been utilised for the purchase of fertilisers, and whether the fertilisers purchased have been utilised in all the States?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The reply has already been given that the loan is not given in cash, but fertilisers of that value are supplied. And they are to be given on credit to the agriculturists. Every year we get a return. This year the loan amount has been increased. It is not Rs. 2.90 crores as has been stated in the question, but about Rs. 8 crores, out of which about Rs. 4.8 crores have already been utilised.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Are the Government aware that the Grow More Food Inquiry Committee recommended that all such short-term loans should be realised by 30th June, in view of the seasonal factors which enable the farmers to pay, and after the crops are ready? What steps have the Government taken in this matter?

**Shri Kidwai:** It was stated earlier that the loans are repayable by the 30th June of next year.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Is it a fact that a large stock of fertilisers is lying unused with some of the State Governments, and if so what steps are the Government taking to utilise it?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think the State Governments have accepted the loans, and the loans are to be repaid by the 30th of June next year, and it should be therefore their duty to see that these stocks are utilised, and they are able to pay back the loans in time.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Have any principles been laid down by the Government of India as to the terms and conditions, whereby poor peasants can take these fertilisers from the State Governments?

**Shri Kidwai:** The terms and conditions are that these fertilisers are supplied on credit, and the collection is made after the crop has been harvested.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know whether it is possible for an agriculturist who has no land, but who is a share-cropper, to take these fertilisers on credit?

**Shri Kidwai:** It is possible for every one who cultivates, to take it on credit.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** May I know what amount has been loaned to the Always Factory, and whether they have begun to repay?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That does not arise out of this. This question relates to loans for agriculturists. Always Factory is not an agriculturist. It may be an interesting question, but does not arise out of this question.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know whether in any State, the Imperial Chemical Industries or some other company acts as the agent for marketing these fertilisers, and if so how do they give it on loan to the peasants?

**Shri Kidwai:** At present, the distribution is in the hands of the State Governments. The Fertiliser Factory proposes to organise a marketing board. Arrangement will be made to see that these credit facilities will continue. But a decision is yet to be taken about the creation of a marketing board.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Do the Government have any information as to how it is being marketed in Orissa?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think Orissa will follow what will happen in other States.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** May I clarify the point? These loans are not available to firms. Government of India do not give any loans to any firms.

**Shri Punnoose:** Short-term credit is arranged for the States to purchase from the Sindri Factory. May I know whether any arrangement for credit has been made in the case of other factories?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think the hon. Member has not been following the questions answered here from time to time. All the fertilisers produced in the country or imported from outside are pooled together, and their distribution rests in the hands of the Food Ministry here. They distribute to the different State Governments. Therefore there is no question of giving separate credit facilities for the other factories.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know the names of the States which have not availed of the short-term loan?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There is no State, I believe, which has not availed of it. The position is, for the time being—I think my hon. friend is anxious about Madras—the Madras Government have a big stock with them, and so they have not yet probably taken

any loan so far. As soon as they utilise these existing stocks, a loan may be necessary.

**Shri B. K. Das:** By what time are the cultivators including the sharecroppers required to pay the price of these fertilisers, and may I know whether it is in the form of produce or cash money?

**Shri Kidwai:** Some States may accept produce, and some others cash money. But we have stipulated that the loans should be repaid by 30th June 1954.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** My question has not been answered. I wanted information about the marketing of fertilisers, and how the loans are given to the peasants, whether through the Government or through some other company.

**Shri Kidwai:** That has been explained just now. It is through the Government. But a scheme is under consideration that the fertiliser factory itself will create a marketing board, and then we will have to consider how the loan is to be advanced. Perhaps it will have to be done through the marketing board.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know, Sir, why no short term credit facilities are allowed to States like Travancore-Cochin? Is it because they have not applied for them?

**Shri Kidwai:** We had provided for a loan of about Rs. 8 crores. Only Rs. 4.8 crores have been utilised. Whenever Travancore-Cochin wants any fertiliser and approaches us, it will be supplied.

**ठाकुर जुगल किशोर सिन्हा :** क्या सरकार ने इस बात का इन्तजाम किया है कि किस तरह की जमीन में किस तरह का फर्टिलाइजर डालने से फायदा होगा इस की जानकारी किसानों को कराई जाय ?

**श्री किदवाई :** खयाल यह है कि किसान बुद उस जमीन के लिये फर्टिलाइजर न लेंगे

जिस का कोई इस्तेमाल न हो । लेकिन हर स्टेट में ऐग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेन्ट इस का इन्तजाम करता है और बतलाता है कि फर्टिलाइजर को कैसे यूज किया जाय, कहाँ यूज किया जाय और किस वकत यूज किया जाय ।

**ठाकुर जुगल किशोर सिन्हा :** क्या सरकार को मालूम है . . . . .

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** नहीं मालूम है ।

**Shri M. D. Ramasami:** May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken to popularise fertilisers and with what result? May I also know what is the consumption for 1952-53?

**Shri Kidwai:** We are just now dealing with the consumption of loans. It is Rs. 4.8 crores.

#### NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

\*970. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent for the development of National Highways in the States of the Punjab, Pepsu and Himachal Pradesh during the year 1952-53;

(b) the amounts allotted for these States for 1953-54; and

(c) whether it is contemplated to undertake any new constructions?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagwan):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 11.]

(c) Yes.

**Prof. D. C. Sharma:** I have not got the statement which is laid on the Table of the House, Sir. How can I ask questions? I think, Sir, such statements should be supplied to the person who has asked the question so that he can study them. Now the hon. Minister says that he has laid it on the Table of the House.