

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

*851. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Mr. J. Surie, United Nations expert for inland water transport who had come to study the practicability of introducing river transport on the Ganga has submitted his final report?

(b) What are his main recommendations?

(c) Do Government propose to implement them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The Government of India have received a copy of a preliminary report submitted by Mr. Surie to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

(b) Mr. Surie's main recommendation relates to a pilot project for the Ganga and Ghogra rivers with two tugs and eight barges.

(c)[†] Yes.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the period of his stay and the total expense over him?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: He stayed in India from 23rd October to December. I cannot remember the expenses on him, but I think it is not more than Rs. 8,000 in all.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Government had settled that the recommendations coming from the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration would be implemented from April last, and if so whether the matter has been taken up?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The preliminary report submitted by Mr. Surie has been considered by the Water Transport Board, and they have set apart a sum of Rs. 15,000 as salary for an officer who would process the whole project. Mr. Surie has also

been requested to make out the designs and complete the drawings of the barges and tugs.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether, independently of Mr. Surie's recommendation, our Central Water and Power Commission has undertaken any research so far as this business is concerned?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: An officer from that Department has been deputed for this work already.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOODGRAINS

*852. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that this year the country is expected to be self-sufficient so far as rice and wheat are concerned?

(b) Are Government going to revise their food import policy?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). It is expected that during 1954, it will be possible to meet the rice requirements of the deficit States from internal sources and no rice will be imported except small quantities which the private trade may import under the relaxations recently allowed or the rice that the Government may import for building up a Central Reserve.

As regards wheat both the Centre and the State Governments hold large stocks at present and it appears that it will be possible to manage by importing not more than our quota of one million tons under the International Wheat Agreement.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the quantity of reserve surplus that will be carried over for the next year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It will be somewhere about 16 lakhs of tons, including rice, wheat and other things.

Shri Nanadas: May I know how and on what basis the conclusion that the country will be self-sufficient in rice and wheat this year, has been arrived at?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: On physical stock basis, We have got demands for about 11 lakhs of tons of rice from the deficit States, and we expect about 12 lakhs of tons surplus from the surplus States. So we hope to meet the total demands of the deficit States, from the surplus States.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the expected increase in production of rice this season, as compared with that, of last year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The report of the final survey has not yet been received, but we hope it will be about 6 lakhs of tons more than that of last year.

WOOL

*853. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any research stations have been opened in the Himalayan regions for production of fine wool in our country?

(b) What is the total annual production of wool in our country and how far is it short of our demand?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes; at Pipalkoti in the U.P. hills and Banihal in Jammu and Kashmir State. A third centre will be opened in Himachal Pradesh as soon as a site is selected.

(b) The annual production of raw wool in the country is tentatively estimated to be 52 million lbs. Total consumption of indigenous raw wool in the country comes to about 24 million lbs. but the needs of the worsted section of the mill industry have to be met chiefly by imports of fine variety of raw wool, wool tops and worsted yarn to the extent of 11 million lbs.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How does our indigenous wool compare with that imported from outside?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It does not compare favourably. That is why we are importing fine varieties of wool.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has any research been made by way of experiments to find out the potentialities that our indigenous sheep have for producing fine wool?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: After having found out that our indigenous wool is inferior to the imported wool, we are doing experiments to improve the quality of our indigenous wool.

श्री भक्त वरान : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि हिमालय के इलाक़ में जो रिसर्च स्टेशन खोले गये हैं, उनसे अब तक क्या लाभ उठाया गया है और कितने वर्षों में हम उन के उत्पादन में स्वावलम्बी होने की आशा रखते हैं ?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I want notice for that.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there are any particular centres where such research is particularly being carried out to find out these potentialities as to whether and in what way we can improve the wool of our indigenous sheep?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I have already stated that we have a centre at Pipalkoti in the U.P. Hills, with a fleece testing laboratory at Khalso in the district of Dehra Dun, and apart from this, we have got in Banihal Pass a station where we have developed the Kashmir-merino sheep. These rams are being developed, and distributed throughout the country. Now we have developed a new scheme, according to which we develop both rams and ewes, and distribute them to the shepherds throughout the country.

CALCUTTA SUBURBAN RAILWAYS

*855. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) which portion of the old Bengal Nagpur Railway has been included for survey by the team of