

(b) Yes.

(c) One of the objects of the Staff Benefit Fund is to provide sickness or maternity benefits to the families of the Staff.

(d) The matter is under consideration of Government.

INTENSIVE CULTIVATION SCHEMES IN ORISSA

683. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 11,49,830 to the Orissa Government for intensive cultivation schemes; and

(b) if so, what are the main schemes submitted by the Government of Orissa for the utilization of this amount?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The schemes and the grant sanctioned for each of them are shown below:—

Minor Irrigation Works	Rs. 10,41,667
Production and Distribution of urban compost	Rs. 40,162
Extermination of monkeys and jackals	Rs. 68,000
Total	Rs. 11,49,830 (in round figures)

"POWER SAMAS" MACHINE

684. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any 'Power Samas' machine has been imported in the Telephone Revenue Office, Civil Lines, New Delhi?

(b) What is the total cost of the machine and from where has it been imported?

(c) Have persons to work on the machine been trained or not?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) About Rs. 2,00,000. The machines have been imported from the United Kingdom.

(c) Yes. They have been trained.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

685. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to spread the Japanese method of rice cultivation in Tripura and to intensify the campaign; and

(b) if so, with what staff; and how many experts there are in this method of rice cultivation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) No special staff or experts have been employed for this work. Eight members of the existing Agricultural staff in the State, stationed at different sub-divisions, are carrying on propaganda in furtherance of the campaign.

SUPERANNUATED DISPLACED EMPLOYEES

686. **Shri Ramji Verma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have ordered the extensions in service may be granted to displaced superannuated ministerial servants; and

(b) if so, whether the orders referred to in part (a) above apply to the displaced persons in the Railway Department as well?

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

(b) Yes—with the difference that instead of extension of service, generally re-employment is granted.

SUGAR

687. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar consumed in India in the years 1950-51, 1951-52

and 1952-53 till the 30th November, 1953; and

(b) the stock of sugar lying with the mills on the 30th November, 1953?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The total off-take of sugar for internal consumption during each of the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53, was as under:—

(figures in lakh tons)

1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
10.79	11.63	16.56

(b) The stock of sugar lying with the mills at the close of 30th November, 1953, amounted to 1.36 lakhs tons.

SUGAR-CANE

688. Shri Sinhasan Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of sugar-cane supplied to the mills in 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The quantity of sugar-cane crushed by the sugar factories during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 was as follows:—

(figures in lakh tons)

1950-51	1951-52	1952-53
109.7	154.9	131.7

TUBE-WELLS

689. Shri S. C. Singhal: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of contracts that have been given by the Ministry for the construction of tube-wells during the last three years and what are the names of the firms to whom contracts were given?

(b) How many of them were Indian and how many non-Indian firms?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No contract has been given to any firm by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. During the period in question nine contracts were, however, awarded by the Governments of U.P., Bihar, Punjab,

PEPSU and Bombay to the following firms.

- (i) M/s. Associated Tubewells Ltd.—4 contracts.
- (ii) M/s. Harold T. Smith Inc.—3 contracts.
- (iii) M/s. German Water Development Corporation—I contract.
- (iv) M/s. National Tubewells Ltd.—1 contract.

(b) First three are non-Indians and the fourth is Indian.

INSPECTOR OF POST OFFICES

690. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the failed candidates in the examination held in 1952 or 1953 for promotion to Inspector of Post Offices in the Hyderabad Sub-Circle were declared to have passed by lowering the qualifying marks?

(b) If so, what were the reasons?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) Selection is made on Circle basis and there was shortage of qualified Inspectors of Post Offices in Hyderabad. Sufficient candidates did not qualify under the regular standard. The shortage has, therefore, been made up in this manner.

RAILWAY THEFTS

691. Pandit S. C. Mishra: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many cases of thefts have occurred between Mokamah and Kiul Junctions of the Eastern Railway from January to November, 1953?

(b) Does it compare favourably or unfavourably with the average for the same distance in other sections of the Eastern Railway?

(c) Have the watch and ward staff of this section been increased and what other steps have been taken to check the thefts?