

D.V.C. at Hazaribagh and the Research Station set up by the Hyderabad Government at Sahibnagar will be given substantial financial assistance to enable them to continue their work on an expanded basis.

The first batch of Soil Conservation workers of the State Governments will be trained at the Centres of the Board. Loans and grants for approved Soil Conservation Schemes of the State Governments will continue to be given.

During the period of the Second Five Year Plan it is proposed to expand the Scale of activities considerably. Proposals to this end are under consideration.

(d) Schemes for research, demonstration and training in soil conservation and for undertaking soil conservation measures in the problem areas are being given priority.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

79. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population covered by the Agricultural Co-operative Societies in India; and

(b) the number of big farms and agricultural co-operative societies respectively in India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The percentage of agricultural population covered by Agricultural Co-operative Societies in India was 16 as on 30th June 1952, which is the latest date for which figures are available.

(b) Information in regard to the number of big farms in India is not available. There were 1,52,300 Agricultural Co-operative Societies in India at the end of June, 1952.

BOMBAY LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

80. **Shri N. A. Borkar:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of awards given by the Bombay Labour Appellate Tribunal

set up by the Central Government under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 up-to-date;

(b) the number of cases of Madhya Pradesh in which the awards have been given;

(c) the number of cases of Madhya Pradesh in which the awards have not been given as yet; and

(d) how much time it will take to give the awards in the remaining cases?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Dasal): (a) Till the end of October 1954, the number of decisions given by the Bombay Bench of the Labour Appellate Tribunal, constituted under the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950, in appeals from awards is 878.

(b) Twenty-six.

(c) Nine.

(d) A second Bench is being set up at Bombay very shortly and it is hoped that the pending appeals will be disposed of expeditiously.

RAILWAY SERVICES

81. **Shri Lakshmidhar Jena:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of existing railways in Orissa State;

(b) the total annual income of the Eastern Railway;

(c) whether Government are aware of the popular demand for having a Divisional Headquarters situated in Orissa; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Statistics of railway mileages under each railway administration are compiled annually but statistics of such mileages in each State are not compiled. Attention of the hon. Member is, however, invited to the similar information specially collected and supplied in answer to Unstarred Question No. 508 for 10th December, 1952 by Shri B. N. S. Deo.