

(b) whether any company has applied for the same from that State ?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply and Commerce and Consumer Industries (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No application has been received from any company or party from the Travancore-Cochin State.

Australia's Invitation to Indian Experts

1703. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Australian Government have extended an invitation to Indian experts to visit Australia to study and look at some of the water conservation and other aspects of irrigation there; and

(b) if so, when the delegation will leave and who will lead the delegation ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The answer is in the negative. An invitation has, however, been extended by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia, to Prof. M. S. Thacker, Director of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to visit Australia. Prof. Thacker will visit various research organisations under the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and will also take part in the discussions of the Arid Zone Research Committee of the UNESCO, of which he is a member. He has also been asked by the President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, to acquaint himself with the work done in Australia in the field of water harvesting and irrigation engineering in which they have done some original research work. The Government of India have decided to depute some experts in this field to accompany Prof. Thacker to Australia to study these methods there.

(b) The deputation will be headed by Prof. M. S. Thacker, Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and is likely to leave India in September/October this year.

Central Palm Gur Training School

1704. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) how long the Central Palm Gur Training School will continue;

(b) how many organisers and instructors deputed by various State Governments were trained since its inception (State-wise and year-wise); and

(c) how much sum has been spent on it during 1955-56 ?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Central Palm Gur Training School now designated as the Bharatiya Tad Gur Shilpa Bhavan will continue so long as it is required for the development of the Palm Gur Industry and the training of personnel therefor.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

(c) Rs. 1,13,972 - exclusive of salaries of staff etc.

सरयू नदी द्वारा भूमि का कटाव

१७०५. **श्री विष्णुनाथ प्रसाद :** क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भाजमगढ़ जिले की घोसी तहसील के पूर्वी और उत्तरी भाग में दीवारा क्षेत्र में सरयू (घाघरा) नदी के कारण भूमि का कटाव बड़ी तेजी से हो रहा है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस नदी के पानी के कारण हजारों बीघा जमीन और सैकड़ों मकान डूब गये हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ;

(घ) क्या द्वितीय पंच वर्षीय योजना में कटाव को रोकने के लिये कोई योजना रखी गई है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो वह योजना क्या है और उस पर अनुमानित क्या व्यय होगा ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत उपमंत्री (श्री हाथी) : (क) से (ङ) अपेक्षित जानकारी राज्य सरकार से एकत्रित की जा रही है और जल्दी से जल्दी सदन की मेज पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Coir Board

1706. **Shri Achuthan :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Industries be pleased to state;

(a) whether a permanent Chairman has been appointed to the Coir Board;