

State under the Family Planning Scheme approved by the Government of India.

A statement showing grants-in-aid sanctioned by the Government of India for the opening of these Centres is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 27].

Shri Gidwani : May I enquire through you whether it is open to any State Government to refuse to carry out the policy laid down by the Union Government or to refuse to offer any co-operation in implementing the same ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a general question of policy.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar : The hon. Member knows that in the matter of the subject of health, the State Governments are autonomous and they can decide any policy they like.

Shri Gidwani : Is that true ? Can any State Government refuse to implement any policy laid down by the Centre, which forms part of our planning programme ?

Mr. Speaker : On the constitutional issue as to whether in the field which is exclusively given to the States, the States have exclusive jurisdiction or they are tied down by the policy laid down by the Planning Commission or the Centre, the hon. Member may look into the Constitution.

Shri Kelappan : Is it not a fact that the Minister of Health of the Central Government also does not believe in artificial methods of family planning ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur) : The fact that family planning programmes have been undertaken by the Central Ministry of Health is the answer to his question.

Dr. Jaisooriya : Did the Bombay Government adopt any special method of their own, as opposed to yours ?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : The Bombay Government have accepted the rhythm method. They were not in favour of contraceptives.

Dr. Jaisooriya : Has the Bombay Government adopted the rhythm method because it was very successful ?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur : The rhythm method has proved cent per cent successful where it has been practised with intelligence and the necessary amount of restraint.

Indian Engineers for U.S.A.

***1030. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Indian Engineers has recently been sent to the U.S.A. to study flood control methods there ;

(b) if so, whether that team will study the flood control methods of any particular river system there ;

(c) the period of study ; and

(d) whether the expenditure of that team will be borne by the U. S. Technical co-operation Mission ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a). No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) From two to six months depending on the nature of the subject which each member of the team is required to study.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : In reply to part (b) of my question, the hon. Minister has replied "No". May I know which flood control measures they will study ?

Shri Hathi : They will study different subjects dealing with flood control, e.g., flood hydrology, model experiments, flood forecasting, river training and meander control, stabilisation of banks, soil conservation, soil research and those allied subjects which have to be necessarily studied with regard to floods.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : Is it possible for them to acquire the practical knowledge without visiting any river flood control projects obtaining elsewhere ?

Shri Hathi : No. During their study they may visit some places. But it will mostly be a course on theory.

Food Import Plans

***1033. Shri Kajrolkar :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration any scheme to ensure continuous flow of food into the country during the next year ; and

(b) the names of the countries from which it is proposed to secure food supplies during the next year ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present we have agreements with the Governments of U. S. A. and Burma.

Shri Kajrolkar : What is the present position of food stock in the country ? Is it adequate ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : Yes, Sir.

Shri Kajrolkar : How far the Suez Canal problem and the consequent difficulty in getting shipping here affected the import of foods ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : The shipping position has become a little tight. But, on the whole, we are getting fairly good supply.

Shri Kajrolkar : Have the Government secured adequate number of ships for the import of food in time ?

Shri A. P. Jain : We are chartering ships from time to time. I think we are getting sufficient shipping for our purposes.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : Before importing foodstuffs from foreign countries, will the Government assure the House that they will stock them in the Government godowns ?

Shri A. P. Jain : Sure.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members are more anxious to get assurances than facts. A question like "Are there sufficient number of godowns to stock all the imported food or if not, what is the deficiency ?" will elucidate an answer. If the hon. Member wants an assurance, the hon. Minister will give an assurance and it will end there.

Shri Kasliwal : The hon. Minister said just now that there is an agreement with Burma for import of rice. May I know what is the total quantity of rice that is going to be imported from Burma during the years 1956-1957 and 1957-58 ?

Shri A. P. Jain : We go by the calendar years. In 1956 we had agreed to import three lakhs tons, out of which, I think, 20,000 to 25,000 tons remains to be imported. It will be carried over to the next year and in 1957 we propose to import 500,000 tons.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : How are we going to pay for the rice imported from Burma ?

Shri A. P. Jain : In cash.

Shri Matthen : The hon. Minister said just now that he is chartering several ships for importing food. May I know

the number of ships chartered from the beginning of this year and what is the measure he is adopting in the matter of chartering, that is, is it through his own Ministry or Transport Ministry or some other means ?

Shri A. P. Jain : We are chartering ships on the basis of our monthly requirements. We try to utilize them as early as possible. 50 per cent of these are U. S. A. flag ships and the remaining 50 percent are non-U.S.A. flag ships.

Shri Matthen : How many ships have been chartered during this year ?

Shri A. P. Jain : I cannot give the total number. We are chartering them from time to time.

Development of Ports

*1034. **Shri Matthen :** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated cost of the development schemes submitted by the major ports was reduced from about Rs. 57 crores to about Rs. 37 crores;

(b) if so, the basis on which such a reduction was made;

(c) whether it is a fact that the greatest cut was made in the provision of social services like Housing, Hospitals, Sanitary facilities to the workers and

(d) if so, the reasons because of which such a drastic cut was made in view of the importance attached by the Planning Commission for the provision of housing?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) : (a) to (d). The estimated cost of the development schemes of major ports included in the Second Five Year Plan is about Rs. 80 crores to be financed partly by Government assistance and partly from the resources of the Ports. This include 5.1 crores for housing, hospitals and welfare services for which the estimates submitted by the Port authorities amounted to Rs. 8.1 crores. The question of restoring part of the cut in these items is being reviewed.

Shri Matthen : May I know the answer to part (a) of my question?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : It is one composite answer.

Shri Matthen : Does he believe that the provision of houses will be adequate if the cut is enforced?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : Originally, Bombay had asked for a grant of Rs. 4