

Nimtitā and Tildanga, which had to be abandoned due to erosion of river Ganga in 1953, has been carried out recently. The Survey Report is under consideration of the Board at present.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Should we take it that the rail route from Nimtitā to Dhuliyān is now under consideration by the Government?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** No, the report is under consideration, the engineering survey.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In view of the fact that this Dhuliyān-Tildanga area has, due to erosion, been completely isolated from the rest of India and now that the North Bengal route and the Assam route is also going to be surveyed and taken up, may I know whether any proposal is there for connecting this area also, that is Nimtitā-Dhuliyān and the North Bengal route?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** Yes, the provision of railway facilities in this area is considered desirable. But then there is the limitation of resources. As a matter of fact, in order to provide enough facilities in the area, Khejuriaghat and Maldah, surveys were carried out in 1955 for MG lines connecting with Balurghat. Several schemes are there. But owing to paucity of funds we are not able to execute them now.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** In view of the fact that the connection between South Bengal and North Bengal has been completely disrupted for the past ten years due to partition, may I know whether this will be given a priority and whether after the surveys which have been carried out—three or four have been carried out—whether there is any possibility of the thing being finalised within the next year?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** As I said before, it is considered desirable. But it is too early to make any commitment. As a matter of fact, the diversion that is proposed is for 9.43 miles. Even that is considered not satisfactory and it is still under investigation.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** How long will it take?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswami:** As long as is necessary.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** What is this?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member has established himself quite early!

#### Fertilizers

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\*1857. { **Shri B. Das Gupta:**  
**Shri Bangshi Thakur:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the effect of fertilizers in drought-affected areas; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the toxic effect of fertilizers on soil has done more harm to crops in West Bengal where supply of water was inadequate?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 24.]

**Shri B. Das Gupta:** From the statement I find that "the Government of West Bengal have reported that application of fertilisers has not done any harm to crops nor left any deleterious effect on soils in West Bengal". I specifically asked a question whether it is a fact that the toxic effect of fertilizers on soil has done more harm to crops in West Bengal where the supply of water was inadequate.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is not only in West Bengal; it is a universal proposition. We do not advise the use of artificial fertilizers where there is no assured water supply. If you use it there it does not help; it burns the crop when there are drought conditions prevailing.

**Shri B. Das Gupta:** Apart from this drought area, may I know whether it is a fact that scientists and experts at Pusa and elsewhere have warned

that chemical fertilizers are no good for the soil, for in the long run they do not pay and they produce pernicious and wasting disease of the soil and thus prove amenable to it? Is the Ministry aware of this?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is entirely wrong to say that chemical fertilisers are going to prove harmful. That is not so. On the other hand, all over the world, chemical fertilisers have added more and more fertility to the soil, provided they are used properly and in a balanced and judicious way.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Is it not a fact that drought areas are included in Government's plans for the distribution of fertilisers?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We do not include any area. We supply it to the demand of the States, and it is left to the State Governments to supply it only in such areas where there is assured water supply.

**Shri Liladhar Kotaki:** In view of the fact that the use of fertilisers has produced adverse effect in certain areas, may I know whether the Government of India have enjoined upon the State Governments to see and ensure that fertilisers are not used in areas where there is scarcity of water?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** True; the State Governments know this fact, and we also know it, and it is known to everyone. So, there need not be any enjoining. Wherever there is no assured water supply, they need not use these fertilisers. The farmer himself knows this out of experience.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** What is the actual percentage of increase in the food production due to the use of chemical fertilisers?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** One ton of fertiliser is expected to produce two more tons of foodgrains at least.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** Fertilisers are apparently used for increased production. In view of the advice given by the Minister of Co-operation to the peasants that they should burn their crops and withhold them from being sent to the market, may I know what the purpose of utilising these fertilisers is?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** That is the system existing in America. It is known as the soil bank system, where they do not grow foodgrains to keep up prices.

**The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** I did not give any such advice to the Indian farmers.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** It is a very serious question, because the Minister of Co-operation has actually publicly advised the peasants to burn their crops and withhold them from being sent to the market . . .

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** In view of this, may I know whether this is Government's policy or this was just some sort of opinion expressed by the Minister?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The point I was driving at was that when, at a particular period of time, the farmers rush their produce to the market, the prices are depressed, and everybody suffers; and I said that they should regulate what stuff they should send to the market so as not to depress the prices.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** But why burn them?

**Mr. Speaker:** Did the Minister advise them to burn them?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** The Minister has not contradicted the report of his speech which has been published in the press; or, he has not seen it.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I do not go about contradicting every report that appears in the press.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is impossible to go on contradicting.

**Shri Bangshi Thakur:** In the newly reclaimed areas in Tripura, which are free from fertilisers, the production amounts to 75 maunds per acre. May I know what will be the effect of fertilisers on such soil?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** This is more a question for the scientists to answer. But, even as a layman, I can say that wherever the fertility is high, fertilisers need not necessarily be used.

#### U.S.A. Wheat

\*1860. **Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of U.S.A. to make urgent sales of surplus wheat valued at 85 million dollars has been finalised; and

(b) what are the terms as to (i) price; (ii) credit or payment; and (iii) delivery?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) No such proposal has been received from the Government of the United States.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Is there any proposal to get wheat from America against manganese ore?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is still under discussion. At present, there is no proposal, and nothing has been decided about it.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** This week, there is a report that there is feverish American diplomatic activity in Cairo with Nasser to give him frozen cast of Suez Canal as well as wheat. May I know whether we are also proposing to buy some wheat, and whether the Government of India would be alert in regard to the price that they will pay for wheat, for, the Minister said last time that the price for wheat will be lower than that prevailing according

to the International Wheat Agreement?

**Shri C. D. Pande:** We want wheat and money. We want both.

**Mr. Speaker:** There are other persons also ready to buy. Are we going to try to go in advance and purchase at a cheaper price? That is the suggestion of the hon. Member.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** We are always vigilant and want to buy at the lowest price.

#### Inland Water Transport Freight Rates

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\*1861. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Bhagavati:**  
**Shri Basumatari:**  
**Shri Liladhar Kotoki:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the joint steamer to companies which operate their vessels in the Ganga, Brahmaputra, etc, have increased their freight rates;

(b) if so, by what percentage; and

(c) how has this increase in freight rate been received by the transport users?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The freight rates on cargo other than foodgrains have been increased by 12½ per cent. from 1st July, 1957 and by a further 10 per cent. approximately from 1st April, 1958. Freight on foodgrains has been increased by 12½ per cent. from 15th February, 1958.

(c) There have been some protests from the users.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the effect of this increase in freight rates on the agriculturists in Asam and Bihar?

**Shri Mohiuddin:** The actual effects will be very difficult to assess. But my answer is not concerned with Bihar; it is concerned with Assam. As