

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to utilise the manure for growing more food?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) It is estimated that at present about 40 per cent of bones are being collected and it may be possible to increase the collection to 70 or 75 per cent of the potential availability of about 3 lakh tons of bones

(b) The question of utilisation of the bone resources of the country fully was considered at the Seminar on Local Manurial Resources held at Madras from the 19th to the 22nd January, 1959. Amongst others, the following recommendations were made.—

1. The right of ownership on the dead bodies of animals should either be vested in the States or Gram Panchayat so that States or Gram Panchayats can give contract to an agency which may be found to do the work on proper scientific basis

2. The State Governments should take such measures as might be necessary to make available increased collection of bones and also make available large quantities of bones for bone digesters with the help of which raw bones are completely converted into steamed bonemeal

3. As far as possible, all the bones which are unutilised at present, should be converted into bonemeal. In places where it is not possible to install bone digesters, mobile-crushing units worked by tractors may be recommended.

4. The preparation of steamed bonemeal should be organised on cooperative basis, as far as possible, but if any individual wants to take up this work, he should be encouraged

The States have been urged to take urgent action on the recommendations.

It has been reported that about 350 bone digesters have so far been set up. The All-India Khadi and Village Industries Commission gives financial assistance for the setting up of flaying centres where carcass recovery, including bones, is one of the items attended to.

Milestones on National Highways

412. Shri K. S. Ramaswamy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued to inscribe the milestones on National Highways in Hindi; and

(b) whether there is any such instruction to write them in the regional language also?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The following procedure for inscribing milestones on all roads including National Highways in the different languages has been laid down:—

Mile No	Script
0	English
1	Hindi
2	Local language
3	Hindi
4	Local language

and so on in the above order

Thus out of every five milestones one is inscribed in English and two each in Hindi and the local language.

Soil Testing Laboratories

413. Shri K. S. Ramaswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the area surveyed during the Second Five Year Plan period so far by the various Soil Testing Laboratories in the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): About 5 lakh acres have been covered by the Soil Testing Laboratories so far