

investigated. Six additional Postmen and one adult Messenger have since been sanctioned for this office.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Has not the Government received some complaints from other parts of Assam regarding delay in the delivery of telegrams and postal letters?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Well, Sir, there is no complaint, as far as I am aware. What happened was that during the disturbances, in the Brahmaputra Valley District it was not possible to deliver the post in time; it was intercepted on account of the riots that were raging there.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Is it not a fact that such delays have been occurring for the last two years? The delivery of mails was made twice during the day and now it is being made only once a day, and sometimes telegrams are received even 24 hours after the time of their receipt in the Telegraph Office.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am not aware of what the hon. Member says, but I may point out that telegrams do get delayed because there are over-headlines and sometimes there are disturbances also.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Does the hon. Minister think it advisable to take some steps to expedite the delivery of telegrams and letters—at least twice a day?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: That matter is being enquired into.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Minister is satisfied that since those disturbances ended, the position has been improving?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I have said so, Sir.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether it is a fact that there is a general complaint about the late

delivery of telegrams, money orders and express letters?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not confined to Assam.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Not confined to Assam, Sir. As a matter of fact, Sir, they are all being enquired into. I am keeping it under a strict watch.

*476. [The questioner (Shri Ram Sahai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2625-26 infra.]

*477. [The questioner (Shri S. C. Deb) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2626 infra.]

AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION TO RUSSIA

*478. **SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the members and the States to which they belonged, of the delegation led by the Minister of State for Agriculture to Russia in July last; and

(b) the expenditure borne by the Government of India on the visit of the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The total expenditure involved to the Government of India on this delegation was about Rs. 16,176. Rs. 12,717 out of this were spent on return Air Fare between Delhi and Tashkent.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the Member</i>	<i>State to which he belongs</i>
Shri Mohanlal Gautam, Minister of Co-operation and Agriculture.	Uttar Pradesh.
Shri N. R. Rachiah, Minister of Agriculture, Excise and Social Welfare,	Mysore,

<i>Name of the Member</i>	<i>State to which he belongs</i>
Shri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Home and Agriculture.	Madras.
Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha, Minister of Agriculture.	Rajasthan.
Shri N. Ramchandra Reddy, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Labour.	Andhra Pradesh.
Shri Shyam Sunder Narain Mushran, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.	Madhya Pradesh.
Shri K.D. Sharma Secretary, Farmers' Forum.	Union Territory of Delhi.
Shri P.R. Puri, Regional Manager, U.P. Commercial Corporation.	Union Territory of Delhi.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, I would like to add my regret so far as my reply the other day was concerned. I had said that it was only the incidental expenditure that was incurred by Government on this delegation. I had forgotten the fact that the Government of India decided that up to Tashkent we should pay the fare. That is why the amount has come to this much. The incidental expenditure came to only Rs. 3,400.

I may also add that I have decided to submit a report of the tour, although not all the members have sent theirs.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: This Statement shows that representatives from only some few States were included. May I know why other States were not represented on this delegation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, this was an invitation from the Minister of the U.S.S.R. specifically in the names of those individuals who had been sent there.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know the occasion and the purpose of this delegation visiting Russia?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It was, as I said previously, a friendly invitation from the Minister who had visited India and since he happened to visit these States and met these Ministers, he invited them.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if the delegation has submitted any report and, if not, when that report will be submitted and also whether it would include any recommendation to be adopted by the Government of India for the development of agriculture?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, we have decided now to submit a report; it will take a few weeks more.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: What is the gain of this delegation to the agricultural production of this country? Any benefit derived from this delegation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I do not think, Sir, any delegation can claim that it has increased agricultural production directly. There are incidental and other indirect advantages. After all, Sir, I am sure nobody in the House will gainsay the fact that visiting and seeing other countries does add to one's knowledge and also brings in more and more information.

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश के जो डेलिगेट गये थे उन्होंने अपनी स्पीच में कहा था कि वहां पर रूस में जाकर उन्होंने घोड़ी का भी दूध पीया। क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि क्या यह बात सच है? अगर सच है, तो उसके उपयोग का क्या यह भी प्रयत्न किया जायगा?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : यह बात सच है कि रूस में घोड़ी का दूध अक्सर पिया जाता है और दिन में चार मर्तबा दूध निकाला जाता है। हमें भी दिया गया था लेकिन हमसे से कुछ ने पिया नहीं।