

hyacinth pest is checked, five million tons more of foodgrains can be produced and in West Bengal and other States, 9,00,000 acres of land can be brought under cultivation; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any control measures in this connection have been suggested by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and if so, what are these measures?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) The Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research discussed in general the need for undertaking measures for the control of water hyacinth, but no reliable and accurate statistics about the extent of infestation by this weed are available.

(b) Weedicides 2-4D has been found to be very effective for the control of water hyacinth in experiments carried out at the Central Rice Research Institute and it is proposed to undertake pilot projects for the control of this weed during the Third Plan period in areas where its incidence is heavy.

SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: There was a suggestion made in the Press some time back that if these hyacinth pests are collected from the rivulets and ponds nearby and brought into the large rivers, they may be forcibly pushed down into the ocean and thereby these pests may end in Bengal. Will the Government consider that?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: That will be very costly to remove them from one place and driving them to the sea. I think this method which we have experimented with, will probably be much less costly.

REOPENING OF THE RAILWAY STATION AT ABU TARA

*464. **SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether Government have received petitions from the people of Dinhat sub-division is the District of Cooch Behar, West Bengal for the reopening of the railway station which functioned formerly at Abu Tara on the Gitaldaha-Alipur Duar section of the North-East Frontier Railway; and

(b) if so, what decision has been reached in respect of this demand?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under consideration.

SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: May I know when this decision will be taken in respect of this matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: When will the consideration end and a decision taken—that is what he asks.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I cannot lay down any definite date, but I hope it will not be long but I do not mind telling my hon. friend that we have had this matter examined and the traffic anticipated from that station is only 7 new passengers either way and if we have a halt-station there, we will be running it at a loss of approximately Rs. 6,500 per year.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know the special expenses that have to be incurred in the case of a flag-station?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We have to have a building, staff, etc.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: No staff is provided. Only the guard takes over and issues the tickets or the ticket examiner does it. So, far as I know, no staff is provided.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The hon. Member forgets that there are other staff also for the operation of the trains.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: There is a single line and no staff is needed. A flag-station has no double line and so I cannot understand how there is the other staff coming in.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I say that additional staff is required.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that a building is necessary. You agree to that.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: No. A building is not there. Generally it is a shed which does not cost more than Rs. 500 or Rs. 1000. I have seen hundreds of these flag-stations and I know how they work.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: For the information of the hon. Member I would tell him that the expenses that would have to be incurred for opening a flag-station are very considerable.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: "Considerable" is no answer, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghbir Singh is saying that a flag-station costs nothing and the Minister says that the expenses are considerable.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I will give the exact figures, Sir. Opening a flag-station is very costly; a halt-station is less costly. The capital cost of opening a halt-station would be Rs. 6,750, and the annual expenditure would be Rs. 7,990.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I would like this matter to be examined and discussed in the House. I am not satisfied with what he says.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I would not like to waste the time of the House, but if he is interested, I can discuss this with him.

कृषि के सुधरे हुए औजार

*४६५. श्री राम सहाय : क्या साध तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि एक हल के काश्तकार को कृषि के सुधरे हुए औजार उपलब्ध कराने की क्या कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है और यदि हाँ, तो वह योजना क्या है ?

†[IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

*465. SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to make available improved agricultural implements to the agriculturists employing only one plough and if so, what is that scheme?]

कृषि मंत्री (डा० पी० एस० देशमुख) : तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में शामिल करने के लिये छोटे किसानों को सुधरे हुए कृषि औजारों के उपलब्ध करने की एक योजना बना ली गई है ।

†[THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): A scheme to make available improved agricultural implements to the small cultivator has been formulated for inclusion in the Third Five Year Plan.]

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं यह जान सकूंगा कि भारत में खाद्यान्न के उत्पन्न करने में बहुत अधिक खर्चा होता है, इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए ऐसे औजारों को अधिक से अधिक तादाद में बनाने का या उनकी खोज करने का सरकार का विचार है जिससे एक या दो हल के काश्तकारों को लाभ हो सके ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : जी हाँ ।
Yes, Sir, it is our intention to see that the farmer spends less in tilling his land, and therefore, to provide him with improved implements.

†[] English translation.