

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, when instructions regarding this plant protection work were issued by the Central Government to the State Governments?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: They were sent in 1959.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, why the U.P. Government has not yet been able to undertake this work?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Sir, some little plant protection work has been done there but not through panchayats and co-operatives, because panchayats have not been very strong there yet. But with the introduction of panchayati raj this scheme will be taken up.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Is it a fact, Sir, that the Srinagar Conference held in June 1960 has laid great emphasis on this aspect?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Yes, Sir.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Government has issued any fresh instructions to the U.P. Government?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Not particularly to the U.P. Government but to all the State Governments.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether these panchayats and co-operative societies have the necessary technical help in view of the fact that this plant protection is a little bit technical work?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: There are technical hands at the Block and district levels and the panchayats will get guidance from them at these levels.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The hon. Minister has just said that the Central Government has not issued any instructions to the U.P. Government. May I know, Sir, why no instruction has been issued to them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said "no fresh instruction has been issued".

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: May I add that instructions have already been sent and the resolution of Srinagar Conference has already been conveyed to them?

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, if these panchayats are in a position to bear the expenditure of this plant protection scheme or are they likely to be helped by the States and the Central Government?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: They are in a position to bear it in States like Andhra, Gujarat and Rajasthan where they have been strengthened.

SCHEME OF FREE MID-DAY MEALS FOR VILLAGE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN N.E.S. BLOCKS IN UTTAR PRADESH

*496. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee 1959-60, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have introduced the scheme of mid-day meals for village school children in any National Extension service Blocks; and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of National Extension Service Blocks in which the scheme has been introduced?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, when the Government issued directions regarding this to the U.P. Government?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: There is no question of issuing any direction, but

the U.P. Government since 1953 has taken up a voluntary scheme, not in the Block areas but in the urban areas of the State.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, why the U.P. Government have not been able to introduce this scheme in rural areas?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: It is probably due to financial difficulty involved there.

SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Were the financial implications of the scheme pointed out to the State Government in this connection in any instructions issued by the Central Government?

SHRI S. D. MISRA: Yes Sir.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know, Sir, if the Government have thought it necessary to commend the example of Madras where the scheme of providing midday meals for children is financed entirely by the population of the State?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Madras is doing really wonderful work as far as this scheme is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not fishing for a compliment.

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: But I do not know whether it is possible for every State to accept that arrangement.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Not even in Andhra?

(No reply)

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Keeping in view the limited resources of States like Uttar Pradesh, is the Government thinking of subsidising or giving additional grant for such schemes like midday meals?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: As far as the Harijans are concerned, the Centre is bearing 50 per cent, contribution. As

far as the other children of poor sections are concerned, it is more or less on a voluntary basis like the Madras scheme.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The hon. Minister has just said that the scheme has been Introduced in the urban areas of Uttar Pradesh. May I know, Sir, whether his Ministry has any information as to how this scheme is working?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: We have no information as far as urban U.P. is concerned.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: May I know, Sir, whether the scheme of free midday meals for village school children is based on needs or is it open to all?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: By and large* on needs.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: May I know, Sir, how much is the expenditure per head on the food supplied to the children, and what type of food is given, whether it is tinned food or cooked food also?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: We do not have details about this.

CONFERENCE OF IRRIGATION EXPERTS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

♦497. SHRI ANSARUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of irrigation experts of India and Pakistan which was called to meet at Delhi in the end of June last, discussed the Farakka Barrage Project; and

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has agreed with our stand that apart from increasing the flow of water to the Hooghly river and saving the port of Calcutta from decay, the project would benefit the internal waterways of East-Pakistan?