

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). Such a proposal is under consideration. But no decision has yet been reached, so that it is not possible to say when it will be given effect to or what extra cost will be incurred in doing so.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: As far as I know, sometime back tickets were being printed in regional languages. May I know, Sir, whether the practice has been stopped?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: At present for the third class tickets the details are shown in English and the regional language.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether any complaints were received from some zones of the Central Railway that the tickets are not printed in the regional languages?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I am not aware of this specific complaint.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGES ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 5 INSIDE THE STATE OF ORISSA

*262. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the plan to construct major bridges over the National Highway No. 5 inside the State of Orissa;

(b) the number of the proposed bridges which are to be taken up for construction during the current Plan period; and

(c) when the construction of all the major bridges is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) There will be 7 major bridges on National Highway No. 5 in Orissa over the rivers Kuakhai, Wathjuri, Mahanadi, Birupa,

Brahmani, Kharsua and Baitarni. Out of these Kuakhai and Kathjuri bridges are already completed. Estimates for the bridges over the rivers Mahanadi and Birupa have recently been sanctioned. Estimate for the Brahmani bridge is likely to be sanctioned during 1959-60. Sanction to the estimates for Kharsua and Baitarni bridges will be accorded during the Third Plan period.

(b) Three.

(c) Bridges over the rivers Mahanadi, Birupa and Brahmani are expected to be completed by the end of 1962. Kharsua and Baitarni bridges will be completed 3 years after the estimates for these works are sanctioned.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, when this construction is going to be started—during the I current Plan period or during the Third Plan period?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, I have indicated that the estimates for the Brahmani bridge are likely to be sanctioned in 1959-60, and those for Mahanadi and Birupa have already been sanctioned. Work on these three bridges will start in the current Plan period.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether the rephrasing of the Plan is going to include, in any way, the construction of bridges during the current Plan period?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I have already broadly indicated the position. With the exception of Kharsua and Baitarni, which will be taken up in the Third Plan period, I think, Sir, all others will be taken up now.

MECHANICAL CULTIVATION

*263. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state how far the schemes for mechanical cultivation under the 'Grow More Food Campaign' have materialised?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): During the First Plan period an area of 21-39 lakh acres was covered by Mechanical Cultivation Schemes. In the Second Plan period, during the years 1956-57 and 1957-58 the area covered is 8-00 lakh acres.

SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: May I know, Sir, the expenditure involved in mechanical cultivation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, this is mostly done by the State Tractor Organisation. I can give the total figures of loans and grants given, if the hon. Member wants them.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, if mechanical cultivation has been introduced in the rice-producing areas also? If so, what is that acreage?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I do not think so, Sir. Rice-producing areas are difficult to operate by mechanical means.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: Is the Government aware that a number of tractors are lying idle in the States, because their spare parts are not available, and as such, Sir, this expenditure is a mere waste? If so, what is the approximate amount of that wasteful expenditure?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, what my hon. friend says may be correct. But we have not had any specific complaint about want of spare parts from the State Governments.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Am I to understand that no tractors are lying idle?

(No reply.)

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether some special tractor designed by one firm in Secunderabad, to be specifically used in rice fields, was brought to the notice of the hon. Food Minister?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Yes, Sir. Such a tractor was being used, but its utility had not been established. It was being tried.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether any tests are being carried out by the Government?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: No, Sir. It is not proposed to carry out any tests with regard to that tractor. A private firm is carrying out such tests.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know, Sir, if the Government has any plans for letting farmers have tractors on hire for cheap cultivation?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: No, Sir. We have no such plans. Of course, we are advancing money for the purchase of tractors in suitable cases.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, the break-up in regard to the acreage cultivated through these mechanical means, both at the Government level and at the private level?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The Central Government has only one 'mechanised farm and that is at Suratgarh, which comprises an area of about 30 thousand acres.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, if it is the view of the Government that it is not possible to introduce mechanical cultivation in the rice-producing areas? If so, how is co-operative farming going to be successful in these areas?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: There is that traditional method of cultivation.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, whether this mechanical cultivation consists of all the process involved in cultivation—planting to harvesting?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: That is not the practice that is being followed in India. It is followed on very big farms. Of course, in the Suratgarh farm we are following it.