

this connection was considered advisable by the Planning Commission. It was at their suggestion that a Special Officer was appointed to go into certain specific questions, namely, that of an integrated road plan covering the village roads, the district roads and the State roads, and secondly, standards and specifications of the rural roads, as also certain other allied questions. These questions were gone into, and roads of two States specially came in for study, namely, Madras and Uttar Pradesh.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: I thought the construction of roads, etc. was a technical matter and for that purpose the Road Research Institute is already here in Delhi. So, what was the necessity of having some Special Officer for that purpose?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, the question is not only of the crust of the roads but also of improving rural communications. We speak in a wider sense here when we speak of rural roads.

*341. [*The questioner (Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1745-46 infra.*]

CULTIVATION OF COMILLA VARIETY OF COTTON

*342. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that measures to start the cultivation of the foreign exchange earning Comilla variety of cotton in the Konkan area are being taken in hand by Government; and

(b) if so, what are those measures?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know, Sir, whether any experiments are going on with regard to the growth of

this kind of cotton for export purposes?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, we accept the contention that if we could grow this cotton in larger areas, it will be possible to have more cotton for export, but no State is very serious about it. There was one proposal, of course, by the Bombay Government, but ultimately it was not carried out.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Sir, the Indian Central Cotton Committee has recommended that a comprehensive scheme should be launched in the States of Assam, Tripura, Manipur and in the Araku valley of Andhra Pradesh for developing the Comilla variety of cotton. It is the shortest staple cotton in the world and it has a very ready market in the foreign countries and it is capable of earning a big slice of foreign exchange. May I know what has been done about that?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, the Indian Central Cotton Committee is no doubt anxious to do it, but I am afraid it has not been able to achieve much of a success so far.

*343. [*The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1746 infra.*]

MEETING OF FAMILY PLANNING BOARD

*344. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Family Planning Board met at New Delhi on November 15th, 1958; and

(b) if so, what are the decisions arrived at at that meeting?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Family Planning Board made the following recommendations: —

(i) To request the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to relax import restrictions on contraceptives.

(ii) To hold camps where selected number of people can be given orientation in family planning, so that gradually there might be a group in each village and town of voluntary family planning educators— (*Pra-charaks*).

(iii) To employ part time medical officers provided the officers so employed were not whole time Government servants and such part time officers were employed in consultation (wherever possible) with local branch of the Indian Medical Association.

(iv) To continue the existing policy regarding sterilization *i.e.*, sterilization operation should be voluntary with the consent of both husband and wife depending on the merits of each case and the operation should be performed by trained surgeons in hospitals and institutions where such facilities exist and not in family planning clinics.

(v) To make a provision of Rs. 100 lakhs during 1959-60 for Family Planning Programme.

(vi) To form a Committee to further examine the following proposals in detail: —

(i) for re-orientation of Family Planning Programme; and

(ii) for co-ordinated programme along with Gram Sewak Training Services under Agriculture, Health and Welfare Schemes.

(vii) To increase stipends of trainees at Family Welfare Workers Training Centres from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 per month.

(viii) To consider at the next meeting of the Board proposals on marriage guidance and counselling and sex education.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, the result so far derived from such planning?

(Wo reply.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He cannot answer that.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether there was a proposal to establish an autonomous body in this regard rather than an advisory body?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: There was no such proposal. One of the members made an observation of that kind.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know, Sir, what is the necessity of getting the permission of both, the husband and the wife, in the case of sterilisation of males only?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Well, the answer is obvious. We do not want to disrupt families.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, whether any State Government has undertaken any scheme with regard to sterilisation?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know that State?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Madras Government, prominently. They are encouraging sterilisation, of course, under proper guidance and in proper cases.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is it a fact that this scheme has been successful in that State?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sterilisation, whenever it is effectively done, is always successful.

DIWAN CHAM AN LALL: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is aware of the new oral method of pills?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That oral method means oral contraceptives, some pills. Yes, Sir. That is under experimentation and we are hoping that our research scholars in Calcutta may be successful in evolving an oral pill.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Sir, there is a very great necessity for family planning propaganda in the rural areas. I should like to know what steps this particular Board has taken with regard to that.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, this is some work which is essentially of a difficult character. Our first aim was to make the States accept the proposal that there should be Family Planning Boards. Now these Family Planning Boards are supposed to go to the rural areas and conduct propaganda there. We are prepared to help in the matter of any constructive schemes. If somebody takes up this work of spreading the message in the rural areas, we shall certainly help in that matter. Perhaps, some Pada-yatras may be more helpful in this matter.

Mi. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, whether there is any Family Planning Advisory Board in the State of Kashmir?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: For Kashmir, Sir, I will have to find out the position.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, if the Government is aware of the Chinese method of family planning—the swallowing of live frogs?

(No reply.) ME.

CHAIRMAN: Next question.

DELAY IN SOWING OF RABI CROPS IN UTTAR PRADESH DUE TO WATER- LOGGING

"345. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several districts in Uttar Pradesh had to delay sowing of Rabi Crops owing to water-logging caused by heavy rains; and

(b) whether any assistance was given by the Centre to the Govern. ment of Uttar Pradesh to expedite the sowing by the removal of water from the fields?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 19.5 lakhs was given to U.P. in January, 1958 for implementing drainage improvement schemes during 1958-59. This amount was recently supplemented by a further provision of Rs. 20 lakhs.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that several thousand acres of land in Aligarh, Mathura, Bulandshahr and Agra districts are still lying waterlogged?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir, we are aware of that problem, and so is the U.P. Government. And we have given our sanction for the expenditure that they asked for. We are not aware as to how far that work has been done.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है कि भरतपुर में भी कई हजार एकड़ जमीन पानी में भरी हुई है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : यह सवाल यू० पी० के बारे में है ।

LICENSING OF PORTERS

*346. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure for licensing of porters at various railway stations; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there are no licensed porters at Delhi Cantonment Railway Station, and that that causes inconvenience to passengers?