

the dredgers, in case the expected aid from the U.S. Export-Import Bank materialises. The Bank has tentatively offered 5 million dollars for the purchase of dredgers.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the attitude of the maritime State Governments in this regard? Have the States so far agreed to contribute to the pool?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have approached the maritime States to contribute to the operational cost on the basis of the use of the dredger pool and we await their replies.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it a fact that for want of dredging operations difficulties are being experienced in the matter of development of minor ports like Pradwep? If so, what is the Government going to do in that respect?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is obvious that dredging is a very essential part of the maintenance of a particular port, especially in the case of a minor port, *th* that work we can utilise our dredger pool and operate it to the best of advantage possible. The total capacity of the minor ports can be thus increased from 5 million tons to 6 million tons.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: May I know which are the minor ports that are recommended by the Technical Sub-Committee for dredging?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are 18: Kakinada, Masulipatam, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Beypore, Mangalore, Honawar, Karwar, Ratnagiri, Jaigad, Dabhol, Bankot, Rewa, Mora, Bulsar, Okha, Mundra, Mandvi.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know whether the Ministry is aware that the dredging machine at Masulipatam goes out of order for a long time in the year?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I could not quite catch the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At Masulipatam the dredging machine goes out of order occasionally, he says.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Masulipatam is a minor port controlled by the State Government. That particular information I have to check on.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: But that is the most important minor port.

*143. [*The questioner (Shri Amo-lakh Chand) was absent.* For answer, vide col. 1142 infra.]

AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS

*144. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the various measures taken during the year 1957-58 and those which are proposed to be taken in the year 1958-59 by the Central Government to relieve the Indian agriculturists of their chronic indebtedness; and

(b) to what extent, if any, the measures already taken have resulted in the improvement of their overall indebtedness?

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION. (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Under the Constitution, the Central Government is not concerned with the provision of measures for the relief of agricultural indebtedness. It is the responsibility of the States.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether Government have any idea as to the total indebtedness of the agriculturists in this country so far?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not got the recent calculations, but the previous calculations are as follows: [In 1911 Sir Edward Mclaglen had estimated it as Rs. 300 crores. Then in 1925 Sir Malcolm Darling had estimated-

ted it as Rs. 600 crores. In 1929 the Central Banking Enquiry Committee had estimated it as Rs. 900 crores. In 1937 the Agricultural Credit Department of the Reserve Bank of India had estimated it at Rs. 1800 crores.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Is there a proposal to take a census in this respect in the Union territories and, if so, what steps are being taken?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I would like to have notice.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether any recent survey has been conducted and whether it has been found that agricultural indebtedness is on the increase?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I could not give any categorical reply. The Survey Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank estimated the credit needs. They did not go into the question of indebtedness in detail.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether Government have any idea as to the position of agricultural indebtedness at the end of the Second Five Year Plan?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir. No definite idea.

SBRI N. M. LINGAM: The Rural Credit Survey Committee recommended certain measures for relieving the rural indebtedness problem in the country. In view of the recent denunciation of the report by the Prime Minister, is Government thinking of modifying those recommendations or considering them *de novo*?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir. There is no proposal to consider anything *de novo*. But what the Prime Minister pointed out was the fear that there may be too much of officialisation of the co-operative movement. That point will be kept in view in dealing with the question under the Second Five Year Plan.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Has the periodical survey of rural credit in the country ended?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the Government of India has offered loans to the States to relieve this agricultural indebtedness?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir. We have got a big plan by which we want to assist the co-operative societies with credit on a very large scale. By the end of the Second Five Year Plan in the place of Rs. 22 crores we want to put in Rs. 225 crores. It is bound to help the agriculturists, and reduce indebtedness.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM JAVA

*145. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import rice from Java; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity of rice to be imported?

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

(b) Does not arise.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR STORAGE AND MARKETING OF FOODGRAINS

*146. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any co-operative societies have been started for storage and marketing of foodgrains in the country during the year 1957-58; and

(b) if so, where they are functioning?

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