

At the Indian Agricultural Research Institute experiments have been conducted on the association of crops, proportions, methods of sowing and the nitrogen content of the soil and grain. Work on this aspect of farming is also being done in the States.

No time limit can be prescribed by which research work on mixed-cropping will be finished. By its very nature, this aspect of research will be a continuous process. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has undertaken a review of mixed-cropping practices and will publish the results in due course. This is likely to take about one year.

(c) and (d). The need for the appointment of experts will be considered after the review being prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been completed and the lines on which work has to be done in future decided. The number of experts and the expenditure involved will also be known at that time.]

गोहाटी में ब्रह्मपुत्र पर रेल व सड़क के पुल का निर्माण

५०. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गोहाटी में ब्रह्मपुत्र पर जो रेल व सड़क का पुल बनने को है उसके निर्माण में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ; और

(ख) पुल का नकशा किसने बनाया है और क्या वह सरकार द्वारा मंजूर कर लिया गया है ?

†[CONSTRUCTION OF A RAIL-CUM-ROAD BRIDGE OVER BRAHMAPUTRA AT GAUHATI

50. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the construction of the rail-cum-road bridge which is proposed to be built over the Brahmaputra river at Gauhati; and

(b) who has prepared the design of the bridge and whether the design has been approved by Government?]

रेल उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) :

(क) प्रारम्भिक व्यवस्था के लिये अक्टूबर, ५७ में २२ लाख रुपये मंजूर किये गये थे। पुलका निर्माण १९५८-५९ के काम के मौसम में शुरू होने की संभावना है।

(ख) पुल का खाका पूर्वोत्तर सीमा रेल-प्रशासनद्वारा तैयार किया जा रहा है नींव के कुओं का खाका मंजूर कर लिया गया है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) A sum of Rs. 22 lakhs was sanctioned in October 1957 for making preliminary arrangements. Actual construction of the bridge is likely to be started during the working season of 1958-59.

(b) Design of the bridge is being prepared by the North-east Frontier Railway Administration. The design of the foundation wells has been approved.]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENTS SHOWING ACTION TAKEN ON VARIOUS ASSURANCES, PROMISES AND UNDERTAKINGS

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYANARAYAN SINHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following statements showing the action taken by the Government on the various assurances promises and undertakings given during the session shown against each:—

(i) Statement No. III—Nineteenth Session, 1957.

[Shri Satya Narain Sinha.]

(ii) Statement No. VII—Eighteenth Session, 1957.

(iii) Statement No. IX—Seventeenth Session, 1957.

(iv) Statement No. XIV—Eleventh Session, 1955.

[See Appendix XX, Annexure Nos. 25 to 28 for (i) to (iv).]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Budget discussion to be resumed. Mr. Shiva Rao.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 1958-59 —GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

SHRI B. SHIVA RAO (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, the budget speech of the hon. Prime Minister in his capacity as the custodian of the finances of the country for the time being and the economic survey prepared by the Ministry of Finance and circulated with the other papers, between them, they give a fairly clear and comprehensive picture of the economic conditions in the country.

The Economic Survey is a brief and business-like document which contains a realistic assessment of the forces that are at work. I would invite the attention of the House to one conclusion which has been drawn in this survey and it is that despite the slight improvement in the situation in recent months, "the economic situation is basically one in which there is a continuous pull, on balance, in the direction of inflation." Then this document goes on to refer to the adjustments which would become inevitable in the Second Five Year Plan. It frankly admits that the "costs estimates for some of the projects in the Plan have gone up; in a few cases the initial financial provisions in the Plan were admittedly on the low side." And it goes on to add:

"The experience of the last two years has shown that the impact of the Plan on the balance of payment was under-assessed when the Plan was formulated."

Later, in the course of this pamphlet, a reference is made to the memorandum which is believed to be under preparation by the Planning Commission with regard to the manner in which those adjustments should take place. I hope, Sir, that that memorandum when it is completed, will be supplied to Members of Parliament so that we may have both time and opportunity to discuss the proposals made by the Planning Commission before final decisions are taken by the Government.

Taking this economic survey as a whole, I am bound to say this, that this document does not give us any rosy picture of Government's effort to secure public loans and to stimulate small savings in the last two years. The figures are interesting. Against Rs. 280 crores which were expected in these two years as loans, only Rs. 213 crores were realised. And so far as small savings are concerned, they brought only Rs. 120 crores in the same period which is a drop of Rs. 80 crores from the target for the two years in the Plan. One cannot read with any satisfaction the suggestion that some items in the field of social services may have to suffer from lack of funds during the plan period. More resources are wanted both internally and externally and this is described as the crucial task for the coming year, and indeed for the rest of the plan period.

Now, turning to the Budget, it makes an appeal to the country "to produce more, to export more and to save more." May I in all earnestness add that the Government should itself make a serious effort to spend less, because the situation today, on the Government's own showing—I think it comes out more clearly in the Economic Survey than in the Budget—is such that it calls for the utmost care and vigilance in regard to expenditure.

There is no new tax suggested apart from the gifts-tax. The obvious inference is that new taxes are