

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, whether these steps for the preservation of wild life include the banning of export of monkeys abroad . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Mitra, we are having a Resolution on that subject tomorrow. Next question.

•300 and *301. (For answers, vide cols. 1676-77 *infra*.)

RAILWAY LAND LEASED OUT FOR CULTIVATION OF FOODGRAINS

*302. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of fallow railway lands so far leased out for cultivation of foodgrains; and

(b) what is the amount of rent realised from such lands during the last five years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) The total area of railway lands so far licensed out is approximately 29628 acres.

(b) The rent realised for such lands during the last five years is approximately Rs. 4,00,504. This does not include any rent realised by Western and North Eastern Railways except in Bihar state by the latter.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know, Sir, whether these fallow lands have been leased out to the landless agricultural workers or to those owners who have got their lands adjacent to the railway land?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, normally the policy that is followed by the Railways is to hand over all these surplus lands to the State Governments, and we leave it to the discretion of the State Governments to give them to anybody they like.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know, Sir, whether any of the lands

I have been given to the low-paid railway workers who cultivate lands?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, again as a matter of policy, we discourage railway employees from taking to cultivation, because we consider railway duties to be more important than cultivation.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the fallow land belonging to the Southern Railway leased out to the railway employees during the Grow-More-Food Campaign period was taken back by the Railways from those employees and there was a clamour from the side of the employees to get back their land?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I thought I had replied to that question. We want the railway employees to concentrate their attention on the proper running of railways and not on cultivation of land. But, Sir, there is no objection to railway employees having small patches for kitchen-gardening etc.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Sir, those lands were leased out to the railway employees for cultivation. They have cultivated those lands for the last 7 or 8 years. After that the Railway authorities had taken back those lands. Now the railway employees demand those lands back for cultivation, of course, on lease. Will the Railway authorities be prepared to lease out those lands to them again for cultivation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, we do not propose to allow the railway employees to take up extensive cultivation.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: It is not the railway employees who cultivate. It is their families who cultivate.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: May I know, Sir, whether there are any arrears of the lease amount due from those people?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I shall require separate notice for that.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, what is the procedure followed in leasing out these lands? Is it done by open bids or by private negotiations?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is handed over to the State Governments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They hand over all the lands to the State Governments and the State Governments in their discretion allot them. Is that not so?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Is it a fact that the Railway Ministry have withdrawn the land from the Central Railway and, if so, what is the extent of it and what are the reasons therefor?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I did not quite get the question.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Is it a fact that the Railway Ministry have withdrawn the lands given out to the railway employees and other people on the Central Railway this year and, if so, what is the extent and what are the reasons for doing so?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, I do not have the information on the subject now.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Whether they be Union Government employees or State Government employees, if the employees could manage the cultivation of these lands or the 'grow more food campaign' through their families, why should there be any objection to their being given the grant of lands? **The hon. Minister** has of course replied that the State Governments dealt with the question. But this is a general policy.

Are the employees with the railways not to devote any attention to kitchen-gardening or to agriculture even though it does not interrupt their duties? Such things are leisure time activities.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, I have nothing more to add to what I have said already.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Has the hon. Minister not got any idea of the quantity of foodgrains produced on these lands?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I don't have the exact figure.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I take it then, Sir, that the Railway Ministry have no information and do not care to have any information about the procedure followed by different States in leasing out lands?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he wants to take it that way let him.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether the Railway Ministry has sent any suggestions or instructions to the State Governments to give priority to agricultural labour or landless labourers or the railway labourers as such while allotting these lands for cultivation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We have not issued any such instructions.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know, Sir, whether the Railway Ministry is intending to give such instructions to the State Governments?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: No, Sir.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Have the Government taken into consideration the safety of the track in allotting the lands to these persons?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All these things you will transmit to your **officers**.