

found to be cheaper than departmental labour for loading coal into locomotive tenders.

(b) Contract labour has not been introduced in all cases and departmental labour is employed where local conditions so warrant.

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION WORKSHOPS

1242. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many group meetings of workers of Agricultural Information Workshops were held in each of the last two years; and

(b) in what material respects the meetings have proved to be useful?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) Ten Agricultural Information Workshops which are group meetings for imparting training were organised during the last two years. Nine were held in the States and one at Delhi as under:—

1955-56 (ending 31st July, 1956). 7 1956-57 (ending 31st July, 1957). 3

(b) Dissemination of agricultural information to farmers on improved farm practices has assumed considerable importance in the context of agricultural production. The State Governments have been assisted to strengthen their Agricultural Information Units to be effective instruments in disseminating such information. These workshops were arranged to give in-service training to Information personnel of the States in the techniques of producing simple and effective information literature in regional languages for Village Level Workers and farmers. Practical training was also given in the preparation of other information media, such as flannelo-graphs, posters, charts, etc. which are useful to the Village Level Workers in organising group meetings and in conducting campaigns in rural areas. Such periodical training helps the

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information personnel to do a better job.

PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ISLANDS IN HIRAKUD DAM PROJECT

1243. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any islands are proposed to be developed in the Hirakud Dam Project; if so, how many; and

(b) whether it is proposed to beautify these islands to attract visitors?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL): (a) and (b). It is proposed to develop the "Hirakud Island", on which the Hirakud Dam is situated, by constructing a park and recreation centre.

DESIGNING OF MODEL HOUSES

1244. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any use of the designs of model houses prepared by the Rural Cell of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply has been made;

(b) whether any financial help to the Villagers to build houses on any of the models has been given; and

(c) if so, what is the extent of assistance rendered?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. K. DEV): (a) Yes Sir. They are sent to State Governments who make use of them.

(b) Yes.

(c) Information is not available in the Ministry.

नारियल और सुपारी का उत्पादन बढ़ाने की योजना

१२४५. श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या कृषि तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा