

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: May I know whether this would affect agricultural production adversely?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I do not think so, because the use of fertilisers is increasing constantly. Besides, the price of agricultural commodities is increasing and is fairly high.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: May I know whether Government proposes to give ammonium sulphate at subsidised rates if it is used for food production?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: That is not the policy of Government.

MACHINERY TO ESTIMATE AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS

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

(a) whether there is any machinery in existence or under contemplation by Government to ascertain from time to time the overall agricultural indebtedness of the country; and

(b) what are the methods in operation for liquidation of agricultural indebtedness?

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

(b) Debt Relief legislation and creation of institutional agencies such as Cooperatives, are the methods adopted for liquidation of agricultural indebtedness.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know when the last estimate of agricultural indebtedness was made and also the amount?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have no recent figures. There are estimates which have been prepared recently which refer to the credit requirements of the agriculturists. They come to Rs. 750 to Rs. 800 crores.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: The question was: When was the last estimate of

agricultural indebtedness made and what was the total amount?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I could not answer that.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Have they got any machinery now to ascertain the amount of agricultural indebtedness at least at present?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, as I have already replied.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: May I know whether agricultural indebtedness is increasing or decreasing?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: According to my information, it is much less than before.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is it from records?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is more from the various data that come to our notice.

DR. B. R. GOUR: They do not have any machinery for this. How do they get the data?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: From various reports produced by State Governments and Co-operatives.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the latest figure, so far as it has come to his notice, of agricultural indebtedness in the country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has noticed the trend, but he has not noticed the amount.

FARMERS SENT ABROAD ON STUDY TOURS

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

(a) the number of farmers who have been sent abroad on study tours since the commencement of the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) the countries to which they have been sent; and

(c) the total cost incurred on their study tours?

THE MINISTER FOR CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

1. 113 farmers have so far been sent abroad on study tour since the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan.

2. The number of farmers sent to each country under the various programmes is given below:—

- (i) 16 farmers were sent to Australia in 1956 under the Colombo Plan for a period of six months.
- (ii) 20 Farm Leaders have been sent to U.S.A. this year under the U.S. Technical Assistance Programme for a period of 3 months.
- (iii) 23 boys and 13 girls were deputed to U.S.A. in 1956 and 23 boys and 14 girls have been deputed in the year 1957 to the U.S.A. under the International Farm Youth Exchange Programme sponsored by the National 4-H Club Foundation of the U.S. for a period of six months each.
- (iv) 4 agriculturists were deputed to U.S.S.R. in 1956 at the invitation of the Government of U.S.S.R. for a period of 15 days.

3. No expenditure was incurred by the Government on farmers sent to Australia under the Colombo Plan and to U.S.A. under the Indo-American Technical Assistance Programme.

4. No expenditure was incurred on the International Farm Youth Exchange participants in 1956. For participants in 1957, the Government of India agreed to meet the major share

in the cost of the passage of the Boys. The total expenditure on this account is likely to be about Rs. 53,000.

5. An expenditure of Rs. 24,000 was incurred on the air travel cost from India to Moscow and back of the 4 agriculturists who visited U.S.S.R. in 1956.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the hon. Minister can give the break-up of the figures State-wise?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not got the complete break-up; in some cases I have. If the hon. Member will give notice of this question, I will reply to him. But I might say that we do not necessarily go by States, although we try to give some representation to each State as far as possible.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: From the statement I find that some young people—20 boys and 13 girls—have been sent to the U.S.A. May I know if they belong to some institutions or to some farmers' families?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They are generally people who are engaged in farming or come from rural areas. In respect of girls, they are those who have had experience of home economics and who are likely to go back to the villages.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the method of selection of these farmers?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There are State Committees or Regional Committees which first interview them and then there is a Central Committee which finally selects them.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Have these study groups at any time submitted any report to the Central Government and if so, can the reports be laid on the Table of this Sabha?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Some of them are expected to submit reports.

In the case of other groups, we make an assessment ourselves. We give them certain questions and they give replies. I don't think we have any specific reports which can be placed on the Table.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: That is the procedure adopted.....

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: How many groups have been sent to China or Japan where conditions have been similar to ours?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Nobody so far as this question is concerned.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: May I know if these 13 girls who went on study tour are married girls or unmarried girls?

Secondly, I would like to know how they are engaged in India after their return from these study tours.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: About the first batch of 13 girls whom we sent to U.S.A., most of them are being employed in the Home Economic Training Centres. Some are married but mostly they are unmarried.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I may add that marriage is neither a qualification nor a disqualification for the selection.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The other question was not replied to. What have they done on their return?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the answer.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Have Government any information with them as to how many of those who were sent abroad have made any improvement in agricultural methods?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Most of them have made some improvement. They are keen farmers and the people in the area and these people inter se keep contacts and they have also been able to enthuse other people. Many of them tour the villages round about them.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: What expenses have been incurred for these tours of agriculturists and who bears these—whether the States or the Centre?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Most of the expenditure is borne by other countries. So far as the 16 farmers to Australia are concerned, it is borne by the Australian Government under the Colombo Plan. We have so far not incurred much amount. For all these 113 farmers who have gone already, we have spent not more than Rs. 1 lakh.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: What is the procedure adopted by the Government to select these study groups?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have already answered it.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is there any machinery with the Government to find out how exactly the persons, after their return, use their services for the service of the nation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There is an association formed where these people meet together and they come in contact with various officers.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: May I know if Members of Parliament are included if they happen to be farmers also?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: That will be opening a very large choice.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY: Is it a fact that one of the Members of Parliament was sent this year?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes.

श्री ज० रा० क० : जिन देशों में हमारे यहां के किसान जाते हैं उन देशों के किसान भी हमारे यहां आते हैं, ऐसा भी कोई प्रबंध है ? यदि हां, तो उन्हें क्या सिखाया जाता है और उन पर क्या खर्च होता है ?

श्री श्री० एस० देशमुख : यह जो यू० एस० ए० की स्कीम है उसने हमारे यहां से भी जाते हैं और उधर से भी लोग आते हैं जिनकी

तादाद बहुत कम है। आप चाहें तो मैं तादाद बतला सकता हूँ। १९५३ में हमने ३० लड़के भेजे थे, वहाँ से १० आए; १९५४ में २५ भेजे थे, वहाँ से १० आए हैं; १९५५ में ३७ भेजे थे—१४ गर्ल और २३ बॉयज़—और वहाँ से ७ लड़के और ३ लड़कियाँ आई थीं और १९५६ में we sent 36 boys and girls and 10 came from there—4 girls and 6 boys. In 1957 we have sent 37 people and 5 boys and 5 girls have come from there.

श्री ज० रा० कूर : मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा हिस्सा रह गया है कि उन्हें क्या क्या सिखाया जाता है और उस पर सरकार का क्या खर्चा होता है ?

श्री गी० एस० देशमुख : यह ज्यादातर सिवानों की बात नहीं है। ज्यादा इसका उद्देश्य यह है कि दूसरे शो में हमारे सम्बन्ध बढ़े।

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I know among these how many were actual tillers and how many were those who only supervise their farmers?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They are mostly farmers but there may be some who may be supervisors.

REPLACEMENT OF OVERAGED LOCOMOTIVES ON THE RUPSA-BARIPADA-BANGRIPOSI RAILWAY LINES

*91. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 408 in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th May 1956 and state whether in view of the frequent break-downs of the overaged railway locomotives in service on the Rupsa-Baripada-Bangriposi lines on the South-Eastern Railway, Government have since decided to replace such locomotives?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): Before the existing locomotives can be replaced with standard

type locomotives, it is necessary that the existing track should be raised with heavier rails and new sleepers. Funds for this work have been provided in the 1957-58 Budget.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government is aware that due to numerous break-downs on this line, passenger traffic is being diverted to road traffic and the railway traffic is whittling down?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: We are aware of that. This is a narrow gauge line on which we have got some very old type of locomotives. We have already decided to re-lay the tracks with heavier type of rails. At present it is 30 lbs. rail and we want to replace it by 50 lbs. rail and put in new sleepers so that we can introduce standard type of locomotives and it has been sanctioned in the Budget this year?

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know for how many years these locomotives have been in service and what is the average length of life of these locomotives?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: On this particular line we have got 4 locomotives working. Two are 53 years old and 2 are 32 years old. The normal life of a locomotive is about 40 years.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is the life of the locomotives calculated in terms of years or also in terms of mileage done?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Generally the locomotives are condemned on condition basis.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Minister got the number of break-downs during last year?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I don't have that.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: There is a track between Jaipur and Porbunder