

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister said that the rails would be got from any country that he can get hold of. Would they be at any price or at a competitive price?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: At the cheapest market rate. That is why we are sending a Purchasing Mission and they will find out the terms most favourable to us.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know how much will it cost to make the cheap thing more costly?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I do not follow the hon. Member's question.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask the hon. Minister why they are sending a Purchasing Mission when all the information on the subject is available here and can be got here?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: As hon. Members are aware, some of our works are held up due to shortage of steel and we require steel very urgently. That is why we want to send our people to make direct contacts with manufacturers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks: "When all the information is locally available, where is the need for sending a Purchasing Mission?" That is the question.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: In view of the very great urgency of the situation, Sir.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the importers of steel in India or the manufacturers of steel abroad have got their agencies here in India and whether it is not cheaper, quicker and easier to contact these agencies rather than sending a roving mission abroad?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will consider all that.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: But he has already sent it, Sir. The Mission has gone.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE WOOL COMMITTEE OF I.C.A.R.

*203. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what recommendations have been made by the Wool Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the establishment of wool utilisation centres and for propagating Angora goats in the various parts of India;

(b) whether any steps are proposed to be taken by Government for the increased utilisation of sheep to better the farming economy of Indian farmers; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in respect of the recommendations, and how soon they are proposed to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (c): The Wool Committee has not made any specific recommendations regarding the establishment of Wool Utilisation Centres or for propagation of Angora Goats. Based on the results of researches conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, a scheme for the development of Sheep and Wool has been sponsored in the Second Five Year Plan which envisages the establishment of 3 Wool Utilisation Centres. A copy of the coordinated scheme under which work is being taken up simultaneously in 10 States is placed in the Library of the Sabha.

As regards propagation of Angora goats, the Council is running an experimental scheme and till its results are known, it is not proposed to embark on large scale propagation of Angora Goats.

(b) The matter is receiving the attention of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if there is any proposal to establish a wool utilisation centre in Madras?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Three centres have been proposed and they would be started this year in Uttar Pradesh, Bombay and Rajasthan.

ADVANCE IN NAVIGATIONAL AIDS IN INDIA

*204. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of the important technical advance that has been made in respect of the navigational aids in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The important technical advances made are:—

(a) the development of Mercury Float Pedestal, driven by gravity type clock-work revolving mechanism, with automatic rewinder motor for use in modern electrified light-houses;

(b) the development of methods for determining the sea conditions e.g., wave heights, extent of fetch, etc., during cyclones for adjudging the suitability of the design and stability of lighthouse structure proposed to be built in open seas well away from the shore;

(c) the development of an automatic electric flasher without mechanical make and break of circuits from 1000 Watts to 30,000 Watts, capable of making 20,000 make and break in one night of 12 hours for use in electrified lighthouses exhibiting a light or emitting a sound signal.

(d) the development of 5 KW. electric light source with a special type of quartz-crystal cylindrical envelope for use in lighthouses in conjunction with the flasher referred to in (c) above.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know the name of the person or persons who have effected these advances?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The Director-General of Light Houses and his colleagues have been responsible for this. I cannot give the entire list. The Director-General's name is Mr. Lahiri and I understand that his work has been very highly commended.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether any special facilities were provided by the Government of India to enable him to make these technical advances?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The work of the Chief Engineer, as he was then designated, was such that a certain amount of research was involved in it and since he was the head of the Department, I presume that he was able to secure the necessary facilities for carrying on his research work.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether the Government has done anything to express its appreciation for the excellent work of the officer or officers?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I believe that the Minister for Transport wrote to him a personal letter and otherwise expressed his appreciation of the excellent work done by the Director-General.

INTRODUCTION OF JAPANESE SYSTEM OF RAILWAY TRACK WELDING

*205. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) in which Railway zones and for what mileage the Japanese system of railway track welding has been