

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Who is the editor of this periodical?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: Sir, it is issued under the auspices of the Directorate-General of Health Services. I should like to have notice regarding the name of the editor.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Why is the periodical not circulated to Members of Parliament?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: Sir, it is circulated to Members of Parliament, but they have to look into them. I speak on the basis of the note here. If this is a wrong information, I will see to it.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Will the hon. Minister kindly place copies of this periodical on the Table of the House?

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: 'Placing on the Table of the House' has a technical meaning. They have been placed in the library of the House.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: All right; I will be contented with that.

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: Sir, the hon. Member will receive the periodical if he has not already received it. I have definite information that all Members of Parliament, Public Health and Education workers, the Press, voluntary associations, etc. have been receiving the bulletin. That is my information. But if that information is wrong, I shall ensure the supply of the bulletin to hon. Members.

TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS OF RATNAGIRI

•199. DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that telephone subscribers of Ratnagiri get their telephone bills from the Central Telephone Revenue Accounts Office at Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR) : Yes, Sir, but the work of issuing telephone bills now performed in Delhi is being decentralised and Accounts Offices are being opened at the headquarters of Postal Circles. The work relating to Ratnagiri will be transferred to Nagpur shortly.

*200 and 201. [*The questioner (Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam) was absent. For answers, Vide cols. 2187-89 infra.*]

PURCHASE OF RAILS FROM JAPAN

* 202. SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to purchase 2000 tons of rails from Japan; and

(b) if so, at what cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: What is the present requirement of rails and how much does the Government expect to procure from Japan, from the United Kingdom and other places?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir the Iron and Steel Controller has already called for tenders for about one lakh tons. The tenders have already been invited. Our requirements still to be imported during the Second Plan are something like 9,82,000 tons and these are to be procured from any country that we can get hold of. It is not confined only to Japan, Sir.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what is the existing production capacity of rails in India?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: It is very roughly eighty thousand tons a year.

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 CHAM AN 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.