

the last week of June 1955 for three lays;

(b) if so, the reasons for the suspension;

(c) whether any similar suspension had occurred a month or so earlier; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent a recurrence of such break-downs?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR) : (a) Yes, partially. On 28th and 29th June 1955, water was supplied for two hours in the morning (7 to 9) and 2 hours in the evening (6 to 8). On 30th June 1955, the supply was made as above in the morning and was restored at 5 P.M.

(b) There was settlement in the foundations of the Junction Chamber near the Settling Tanks at Wazirabad.

(c) Yes, on 24th May 1955, the supply of filtered water was stopped for about 8 hours (9 A.M. to 5 P.M.)

(d) Only temporary works such as repairing the cracks etc, were undertaken and for permanent works specials were ordered.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if any notice as to this stoppage was given to the public; if so, when was that notice given?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The accident occurred late on the evening of the 27th June. Due action was taken immediately by the Joint Water and Sewage Board to inform the public and the Press Trust of India and they were contacted at midnight that night. The information was published in all the morning papers, both English and Indian and was also announced on the radio on the 28th June 1955.

QUALITY AND PRODUCTION OF WOOL

*385. SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for improving the quality and

production of wool in the country is being launched;

(b) if so, what are the outlines of the scheme; and

(c) what are the results expected from the scheme?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Based upon the pilot and preliminary work carried out in different parts of the country, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been running a co-ordinated scheme for the improvement of sheep and wool on regional basis in selected centres since 1952 and proposals for its expansion on an all-India basis have been included in the second Five Year Plan, which is under consideration at present.

Co-ordinated scheme on regional basis.—The aim is to improve sheep, in certain well-defined regions, for production of finer quality of fleece and higher yield of wool. This is being achieved by the establishment in each region of a sheep breeding research station with a fleece testing laboratory and substation attached thereto.

All India scheme included in proposals for the second Five Year Plan (under consideration).—The object of the scheme is to develop sheep industry by improving the quantity and quality of wool yielded. This is proposed to be done by (a) the establishment of farms, where they do not exist, for the production of progressively better rams, (b) multiplication of these superior rams in selected concentrated areas, (c) demonstration improved methods of breeding, feeding, disease control and management of sheep including shearing and grading of wool and (d) establishment of fleece-testing laboratories.

The implementation of the scheme is expected to result in the production of about 13 lakhs of improved sheep annually after the fifth year with an approximate increase of about 50 per cent, in the total wool production. This improvement will also spread gradually in an ever widening circle, thereafter.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether in the matter of improving the breed, the idea is to improve it by taking the foreign breed or by making use of the indigenous breed?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Both.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, how many Merino rams are here in India now?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I want notice of the question.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government come to any conclusion with regard to the capacity of Merino ram to acclimatise itself?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: This refers to the proposals in the Second Five Year Plan. I am afraid the information asked for is not here.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: In the matter of co-ordination of the State's schemes, have the Government examined these schemes and come to the conclusion as to whether it is better to improve the quality of the Indian sheep by using the indigenous breed or by using the foreign breed?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In most of the places, the attention would be directed to improving the local breed. Only those places where it would be possible to upgrade by cross-breeding with the foreign breeds that they will be selected.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Are the Government aware that the Bikaner breed which is an indigenous breed, is considered to be a good breed to improve the breed of Indian sheep?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, in the dry northern region it is proposed to evolve by selection a new strain of the Bikaner sheep which will produce heavier and better class of wool.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Are the Government giving direct subsidies to the State farms to concentrate on the improvement of this breed?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The whole scheme has been framed by the experts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in consultation with the States.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the cost of the scheme?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: If it is sanctioned by the Planning Commission, it would cost 190 lakhs.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: May I know the names of places where the best quality of wool is available in India?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I would like to have notice. I have not got the information 'at hand.

CARGO-HANDLING FACILITIES AT INTERNATIONAL PORTS OF INDIA

•386. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether two American experts deputed by the United States of America Maritime Administration arrived in India in June 1955, to make an on-the-spot study and analysis of cargo-handling facilities at international ports of India;

(b) if so, whether they have supplied a copy of their report to the Government of India also; and

(c) whether they contracted any Ministries concerned in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) We are not aware of any such visit.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.