

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know the expenditure defrayed on this scheme up to date?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I am afraid, I have come prepared only with the information about experiments and not about the expenditure and the number of people. But I will supply this information to the hon. Member if he is interested.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May we know, the practical use of the results of these experiments?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Well, it is said that the oilcakes from *ghanis* contain a large proportion of oil which has not been crushed, and the oilcakes from our oil mills also contain about 8 to 9 per cent. of oil. Now, there is this contention that if the oilcake is used as fertiliser, then the oil content is wasted, because it cannot be used as fertiliser. And then, there is another contention that in the oilcake which is used for cattle-feed only 2 per cent. oil is sufficient for that purpose; the remaining 7 per cent. is wasted. Therefore, while allowing the factories to extract oil from this oilcake, we want to be sure about the utility of the small percentage of the oil that remains in the oilcake.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that during the last war powder medicated grass was recommended and sold in England for making delicious soup and that this scheme was abruptly stopped because a number of people died on account of taking it?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I don't know how that is relevant to the question here.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is the Government carrying on experiments for using oilcake for human consumption and is it aware that it is being used for making biscuits in foreign countries?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: If any biscuit factory wants to use it, there is no prevention.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know whether the nutritive value of oilcake was established after experimenting with it on the gastronomy of the Food Ministry?

(No reply.)

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF FORESTRY

*292. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Forestry which met in Poona recently; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 100.]

(b) The recommendations have been brought to the notice of the State Governments and other authorities concerned for implementation.

*293. [The questioner (Shri Prasadarao), was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1974 infra.]

CONSTRUCTION OF BANIHAL TUNNEL

*294 SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms of agreement entered into with the German firm of Messrs. Baresel and Kunz for the construction of a tunnel at Banihal; and

(b) whether Government had considered the possibilities of departmentally constructing this tunnel?