

which were interested in exporting wheat to us to our demand that the price should be reduced?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The matter will be further discussed at the next session of the Council in October, 1955.

EXPLOSION IN THE CALCUTTA
- G.P.O.

*116. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an explosion occurred recently in the Calcutta General Post Office;

(b) if so, what were the causes and the effects of the explosion; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent the recurrence of such explosions in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes. An explosion occurred on 24th June 1954 in a closed parcel bag while it was awaiting opening in the Parcel Sorting Branch of the Calcutta R. M. S. located in the Calcutta G.P.O. Building.

(b) Causes—Still under inquiry.

Effects—Injury to none; nor any damage to any postal property excepting the parcels enclosed in the bag.

(c) The existing departmental rules prohibit the posting by any person of any postal article containing explosives. Co-operation from public is needed in this respect. Should a postal article posted in violation of the prohibition be detected in course of transmission by post, it is liable to be withheld from further transmission and also to be destroyed under the authority of the Postmaster-General, and the person contravening this rule is liable to penal action under Indian Post Office Act, Section 61.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not true that, at the same time, several other accidents of this sort occurred in Calcutta?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Not to my knowledge.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Has a responsible top-level officer been posted to examine into accidents of this kind?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is under police enquiry.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Has the Department felt the need to handle foreign parcels separately and with care in view of the explosive atmosphere around us?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, we are very well defended against explosive atmosphere from outside.

CHECKING THE ADVANCE OF RAJASTHAN
DESERT

†*117. SHRI N. S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the aid so far granted by the Government of India to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for checking the advance of the Rajasthan desert?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The Central Soil Conservation Board has decided to advance a loan of Rs. 12.3 lakhs for financing the Uttar Pradesh Government's scheme for afforestation of the Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan border during the current year.

†Original notice in Hindi as below:

राजस्थान के रेगिस्तान की रोकथाम

*११७. श्री नै० सि० चौहान: क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने की वृत्ति करेंगे कि राजस्थान के रेगिस्तान की रोकथाम के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को भारत सरकार ने अब तक कितनी सहायता प्रदान की है ?

श्री एन० एस० चौहान : क्या आप बता सकेंगे कि पिछले वर्षों में क्या क्या मदद उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को दी गई ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जो कुछ पिछले वर्षों में हुआ है उसका व्योरा मैं बताता हूँ । उत्तर-प्रदेश सरकार ने १९५३-५४ में ६ लाख २० हजार ६० अपने आप खर्चा किया और इस वर्ष के लिए ७३,००० ६० रखा है । उन्होंने सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से ३५.२ लाख ६० का कर्जा मांगा था और उसके अन्तर्गत १२ लाख ३० हजार ६० का लोन सेंट्रल सोइल कंजरवेशन बोर्ड ने दिए जाने की सिफारिश की है जो कि मिनिस्ट्री आफ फाइनेंस के विचाराधीन है ।

श्री एन० एस० चौहान : हवाई जहाजों के जरिये से कुछ दरख्तों के बीज जो भरतपुर और मथुरा के बीच मैदानों में गिराये गये थे क्या वह जहाज केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से दिए गये थे या उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार की ओर से थे ?

श्री राज बहादुर : भिन्न भिन्न एजेंसियों से यह हवाई जहाज दिये जाते हैं । हिंद फ्लाईंग क्लब जो लखनऊ में है उसका उपयोग किया जाता है और इंडियन एयर फोर्स के वायुयानों का भी उपयोग किया जाता है, जहाँ जैसी सुविधा हो ।

श्री एन० एस० चौहान : क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस बात को मालूम किया कि जो ये दरख्तों के बीज बोये गये थे उसका नतीजा क्या निकला, यानी कितने दरख्त लग चुके हैं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : गिनती तो नहीं की गई कि कितने दरख्त उगे और कितने नहीं उगे क्योंकि अभी समय थोड़ा हुआ है । समय पर मालूम पड़ेगा कि कितनी सफलता इसमें मिली है, कितनी नहीं मिली है ।

श्री एन० एस० चौहान : क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को मालूम है कि दिल्ली में कई वर्षों से जो ठीक वर्षा नहीं हो रही है उसका भी कारण इधर को बढ़ते हुए रेगिस्तान का ही असर है । अगर उसकी यह राय है तो वह रेगिस्तान को दिल्ली की तरफ बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए क्या प्रयत्न कर रही है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : रेगिस्तान के आगे बढ़ने की रोक्थाम के लिए कोशिश जारी है ।

DR. P. C. MITRA: What are the schemes to be implemented for checking the growth of the Rajasthan desert?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have got a forest centre at Jodhpur which has a research station and under the auspices of that particular station some programme for afforestation of the desert area is being undertaken. As is well known, over an area of 8 square miles aerial sowing was done by aeroplanes belonging to the I.A.F. about a couple of months ago.

DR. P. C. MITRA: What are the schemes? How to check?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: To create green belts as best and as early as possible.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: What is the progress made in this connection?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There is a particular plant *prosopis juliflora* which finds quite a congenial soil for itself even in desert and arid areas. It takes to the soil very easily and it is coming up.

श्री एच० सी० माथुर : राजस्थान के रेगिस्तान में जो एरियल सोइंग की गई है उसको किये हुए काफी समय हो गया, उसके नतीजे दो तीन महीने में मालूम हो जाने चाहियें थे । वहां पर जो एरियल सोइंग की गई है वह टैकनिकल एडवाइज के खिलाफ किया गया था, जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि दोनों वार उसमें कामयाबी नहीं हुई और एक प्रतिशत पौधे भी उसमें नहीं उग सके ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You ask the question, Mr. Mathur; do not make a speech.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: The Minister told us just now that it is too early to say what is the result of the aerial sowing. I say it is not too early. Aerial sowing was done more than ten months back and the result should be known within three months and this aerial sowing

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are furnishing some information.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Please let us know what are the actual facts.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you want any information from the Government, you please put a question, but you are giving some information that the trees have not come up.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know if the Minister is in a position to confirm that the aerial sowing was a flop and a failure?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is absolutely a mistaken notion that it has

been a flop and a failure. As a matter of fact, when I said that it is too early to assess the results of this aerial sowing. I referred to the aerial sowing done a couple of months back and it is common knowledge that it is not possible for us to assess the results of that sowing so early, in two months' time, and to say whether they have come up, how long they will live and whether the new saplings are tenacious enough to withstand the heat and the sun of the desert, etc.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know about the sowing done ten months ago, as to when you would be able to know the results of that sowing?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I was referring to the particular sowings referred to in the question put by the hon. Member about Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh border.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is the plant that my hon. friend referred to an indigenous plant? And is it also found palatable by the goats?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as is known to me—I am not an expert—this plant is finding a germane soil in Rajasthan and it is growing luxuriantly at some places. Once it takes root it does not require water. It is safe also from goats and other animals as it does not appear to be palatable to goats, etc.; they do not find it edible.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the scheme be continued to all intents and purposes?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We will try our level best to make Rajasthan green.

SHRI PRASADARAO: Without knowing the results of the experiment already made, how do you continue it?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I have no reason to be pessimistic about the results. As a matter of fact, the facts justify a conclusion to the contrary.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: At whose instance was this aerial sowing undertaken? Was it at the instance of the expert of Food and Agriculture, namely, Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Everything is done under the guidance and ægis of the Minister for Food and Agriculture. Of course technical advice is taken and in completing a particular programme we have got to bear in mind the expert advice given.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know if there was any aerial sowing this year also and whether it is to be continued?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I have already repeated that. I have said that there was aerial sowing this year also.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL

*118. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to my Starred Question No. 682 on the 12th May 1954 and state:

(a) whether the draft of the Industrial Relations Bill has been circulated to the central trade union organisations; and

(b) if so, whether their comments and suggestions have been received by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) The draft Bill is still under the consideration of Government;

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is my friend aware that during the last session, in reply to a question of mine, he said that the Government will consider the suggestion of sending the draft to the different central trade union organizations? If so, I want to know what is the result of that.

SHRI ABID ALI: The draft Bill is not ready yet.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: So far as I remember, the answer given on that occasion was that the draft was ready. I may be.....

SHRI ABID ALI: I do not think such an answer could have been given.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Is there any difference of opinion in the Cabinet about the provisions in the draft Bill?

SHRI ABID ALI: There is no difference in the Cabinet.

SHRI B. GUPTA: What exactly is under consideration if the draft Bill is not yet ready?

SHRI ABID ALI: The provisions of the draft Bill.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know if, pending the preparation of this draft Bill or its introduction, the Government is coming forward with some amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, a suggestion to this effect was made in the other House and also at a tripartite conference recently, and that question also is under consideration.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know what are the sections to which Government propose to come forward with amendments?

SHRI ABID ALI: Nothing definitely decided.

SHRI B. GUPTA: What will happen to this consideration, now that the Labour Minister is out?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

GRIEVANCES OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES RESIDING IN A RAILWAY COLONY

*119. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government about