

hon. Members want to have a discussion, they can seek other remedies.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Without asking further questions I would like to request you to direct the Government to place on the Table of the House a copy of this report because of the very unsatisfactory answers. It is a highly pertinent question.

Mr. Speaker: Is it proposed to place this report on the Table of the House, or have Government any objection if I ask them to place it on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): We have no objection whatsoever. We will place a copy on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: All right; then it will be placed on the Table of the House. Next question.

Measures to Increase Agricultural Production

*412. **Shri Vishram Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the discussions he had with the Chief Ministers from Southern States at Madras with a view to intensifying the production of food in the country in the present national emergency; and

(b) what exact proposals have emerged from these discussions?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) At the meeting with the Chief Ministers of Southern States at Madras the ways and means of securing rapid increases in production especially of rice, millets, pulses, cotton, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, milk, meat and eggs were discussed; this was one of the series of discussions which the Minister for Food and Agriculture held with Chief Ministers of States.

(b) Strengthening of supplies of improved seeds and fertilisers, streamlining of administrative arrangements in

the States for the implementation of agricultural production programmes, and drawing up of schemes by the States for achieving higher targets of minor irrigation, soil conservation and dry farming in 1963-64 and subsequent years were decided upon at the meeting.

Shri Vishram Prasad: May I know how long it will take to make the country self-sufficient as regards food production?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We are at the moment trying our best to achieve the target laid down in the Third Five Year Plan and also the emergency requirements, but we have not worked out what the hon. Member wants just now.

Shri Vishram Prasad: The Minister of Food and Agriculture stated some time back that 50,000 tons of grains were imported every month. How much foreign exchange is involved in purchasing foodgrains every year in this way?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): This figure of 50,000 tons includes the big grain deal that we had, of which every detail is before the House.

So far as the emergency is concerned, sometimes, more grain would be necessary, and that is what we are trying to provide for.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार ने कभी इस बात पर गौर किया है कि एग्रीकल्चरल होल्डिंग्स के ऊपर सीलिंग का कानून रहते हुए उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ सकता है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : यह सूचना माननीय सदस्य से हम लोग लेते हैं ।

Shrimati Sarojini Mahishi: May I know whether any special measures were being suggested at this meeting to see that the schemes in the fields of minor irrigation and soil conservation, especially the schemes that are already sanctioned, are implemented in time?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, that was the intention and purpose of that meeting, and the Chief Ministers were requested by the Minister of Food and Agriculture to help expedite the programmes of minor irrigation, dry farming, soil conservation etc.

Shrimati Akkamma Devi: In order to step up agricultural production, may I know whether Government have taken adequate measures to supply sufficient quantity of Dithane to the Madras State to prevent and cure early and late Blight diseases affecting the potato crop in the Nilgiris?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We are aware that the 'Golden Nematode' disease is prevalent there in the Nilgiris area, I have asked the Plant Protection Department to import the pesticide that is needed to fight that disease. Also, I have asked the Coimbatore Agricultural College to study that disease very minutely and suggest what type of pesticide should be used there, and I think we shall be taking all possible measures very soon to fight that disease.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Pipeline from Gauhati to Siliguri

S. N. Q. 16. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Italian State Oil combine ENI has undertaken to build a pipeline from Gauhati to Siliguri;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the agreement; and

(c) the steps taken so far to implement the scheme?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pipeline will be executed by the ENI Company SNAM S.P.A. at a total cost of Rs. 335.79 lakhs of which the foreign exchange component is Rs. 157.41 lakhs including cost of materials to be imported. The foreign exchange required for the pipeline will

be met out of the ENI credit offered to India.

(c) The formalities regarding the acquisition of right of way for laying the pipelines are almost complete and an advance team of the foreign consultants has already commenced work in the field; the pipes required for the pipeline are being manufactured at Rourkela and delivery of pipes is expected to be completed shortly.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know the total length of the pipeline and by what time the same will be completed?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The distance between Gauhati and Siliguri on the pipeline project is 270 miles. We expect that the pipeline construction will be completed in about two years.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether there was originally a proposal to lay one multipurpose pipeline through Gauhati and Siliguri in place of two pipelines as now proposed, namely one already under construction for carrying crude oil and the other which is proposed now, and if so, why the original proposal was abandoned and what difficulty stood in the way in implementation of the original proposal?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is some confusion in the opinion that has been expressed by my hon. friend. The pipeline that is to convey crude oil cannot be utilised for carrying any petroleum products. The pipelines for these have got to be separate. The pipeline which has to transport petroleum products also sometimes cannot carry all the petroleum products like kerosene, petrol and other fuel oil. Therefore, pipelines have got to be separate for transport purposes.

Originally, there was a proposal to build a pipeline from Gauhati to Siliguri and westwards for carrying petroleum products. But that was not considered feasible.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether this agreement with ENI to build this pipeline from Gauhati to Siliguri