

show that first the people took to it enthusiastically and then there was a lower curve and people left it off and then now about on-third of the population have taken it up and we have had it for three years. So far as the three years' results are concerned, we have it recorded that they have been successful to the extent of about 50 per cent. That is where it is.

In Ramanagaram in Bangalore, nearer my friend's home, there is also an experiment going on and I hope he will fully co-operate and see to it that good results are obtained and to a larger extent.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is confined to Kerala.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** There are only 5 urban and 24 rural clinics opened. In view of the alarming rate of multiplication of the population in the Kerala State.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Why all this preamble?

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** .... I want to know whether the Government will be pleased to open at least one clinics in one town in the Kerala State.

**Shri Karmarkar:** One for a town may be formidable. There is a definite programme about it. It is a phased programme and I wish the State Government takes full advantage and I am sure the hon. Member will surely co-operate in this scheme. I am not joking because in this.....

**Mr. Speaker:** In respect to these matters let us not enlarge the scope of the question or of the answer.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I would like to make a special appeal to the hon. Members of this House. This is a rather difficult problem and we want their co-operation in the matter.

### Agriculture Ministers' Conference, Srinagar.

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 { Shri Sanganna:  
 Shri B. S. Murthy:  
 Shri Surendranath  
 \*724. { Dwivedy:  
 Shri Hem Raj:  
 Shri Daljit Singh:  
 Kumari M. Vedakumari:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the recommendations made by the Agriculture Ministers' Conference in Srinagar on the 13th October, 1957 and accepted by the Government of India; and

(b) the steps taken to implement them?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 19.]

**Shri Sanganna:** May I know whether the recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee have any effect on the decision taken by the Government of India on the recommendations made by the State Agriculture Ministers' Conference; and, if so, in what way?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** In fact, some of the recommendations of the State Agriculture Ministers' Conference deal with the minor irrigation question. The Asoka Mehta Committee also endorsed the same recommendations. We are taking action. We have already given one crore of rupees—additional fund—for minor irrigation this year. Rs. 1½ crores more is to be given to the drought-affected States on the recommendations of the committee which has gone round there.

**Kumari M. Vedakumari:** As importance has been laid on fertilisers in this Conference may I know whether there is any proposal to start a

fertiliser plant in Andhra to meet the growing demand for it there?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The recommendation was not to start a fertiliser factory but to import more fertilisers so as to meet the entire demand of the country and we are taking action to import as much fertilisers as possible.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** The question of a fertiliser factory has come up before the House more than once. The second Five Year Plan provides for the setting up of three fertiliser factories. On account of the foreign exchange difficulties, I do not know whether the programme will be fulfilled and for the time being we are trying to meet the shortfall by imports.

**Raja Mahendra Pratap:** May I know why Srinagar was chosen for the Conference? Was it a joy ride for the Minister?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Ministers need not answer questions which are by way of insinuation or mockery. This is not the House where hon. Members, who are representing 8 lakhs or 800,000 of population, or 16 lakhs of population sometimes, could make all sorts of insinuations or remarks which will elicit more laughter than a serious reply to the questions.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know what steps have been taken to implement all these decisions arrived at the Conference in respect of the recommendations about the fixation of minimum prices and also about the establishment of a committee of experts and administrators?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** About the fixing of minimum prices for agricultural produce, the National Development Council also decided that we must fix the prices, and then the Government of India in the Food and Agriculture Ministry issued a notification on the 15th July stating the policy in that regard.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** What about the expert committee? I wanted to know whether any committee of experts and administrators has been appointed according to the recommendations made.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It does not require any committee of experts. There is already a declaration made by the Food Ministry.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** The hon. Minister stated that in view of the difficulties of foreign exchange, the fertiliser factory programme may not come through and the answer also stated that we are going to import fertilisers. May I know what will be the difference in the amount of foreign exchange required for importing fertilisers and the amount which would have been required to set up a factory?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Those figures have not been worked out, but surely we will require much more to start a fertiliser factory.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** In view of the great necessity for fertilisers, which are in short supply, and also in view of the great demand for foreign exchange, is Government considering as a matter of policy whether they could invite foreign capital to come to India and start the fertiliser industry in India?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Formerly, the idea was that the fertiliser plant should be located in the public sector, but of late there has been a shift in the policy, and it has been decided that fertiliser should be set up in the private sector too.

#### **Grants-in-Aid for Non-Railway Schools**

\*725. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision for giving from Railway revenues grants-in-aid to non-Railway schools where