

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The Delhi State Government will have to make the suggestion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a State Government in Delhi.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, what are the special difficulties in removing rationing from small towns having a population of less than one lakh where it is still in force?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In almost all the States where the food scarcity is not very much, we have really removed controls, whereas in States like Bombay, from which the hon. Member comes, and which are highly deficit, we ought to exercise utmost care and vigilance in regard to the relaxation of controls. If these relaxations are found profitable, we are prepared to do so by all means, but if they are found harmful, we must bring it back to controls again, that is the policy of Government. We must exercise utmost care and vigilance because of the acute shortage of some of the main cereals like rice and wheat.

CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

*1894. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state on what principles the annual contribution to the Food and Agriculture Organisation is given?

(b) Has there been any increase in the budget under this Head?

(c) What is the machinery to settle this amount?

(d) For what purpose is it given?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The annual contribution to the F. A. O. is based on the national income of each Member Nation.

(b) The annual contribution of India was fixed at 268,324 dollars for the years 1952 and 1953. On a special representation made to the F.A.O., an *ad hoc* emergency relief of \$37,902 was accepted during 1952 and India paid only \$ 2,30,422.50.

(c) The contribution for each Member Nation is fixed at the F.A.O. Conferences which are held once in two years and on the advice of Special Committee on financial control.

(d) To meet the working expenses of the Organisation for which all Member countries pay contribution according to prescribed scale.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What are the services that this Organisation does to us?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They are mentioned in the statement of functions of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Sir. It is from them that we receive some technical aid; classes are held and training centres subsidised and financed. We also get some assistance in regard to locust control and some other schemes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether this Food and Agricultural Organisation, of which India is an out and out member, meets the expenses of delegations from India to the F.A.O. conferences?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. We have to pay for our delegation's expenses excepting those who are official members who happen to be on Committees and Councils. The expenses of the latter are met by the F.A.O.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know, Sir, the number of Indians working in this Organisation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a fairly good number of Indians. Very often we agitate that our number there is disproportionate to our contribution and so on. I have not got the complete information here.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know, Sir, whether we are expected to pay any amount other than this contribution for the technical advice or help we receive from this Organisation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Ordinarily not, Sir, unless we ask specially for some expert, in which case probably we may have to pay.

MANUFACTURE OF GAS FROM COW-DUNG

*1897. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken to examine the economies of the plant used for the production of Combustible gas from cow-dung?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A large size plant is being set up at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. It is expected that the assembling, welding and erection of this plant will be completed by the end of May 1953. The experimental work and analysis of the gas will then be started.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, if in view of the economy and utility of the plant, Government propose to manufacture such plants.

in their own factories or give encouragement to commercial lines already engaged in it?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have no factory of our own where we could manufacture this, Sir. But if it is proved that economically it is a sound proposition, then I am sure some private industrialists will take it up.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, if Government are aware that there is a firm at Bombay manufacturing gas plants exactly on the same pattern as this plant?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. I not only know about it, but I have seen the manufacture of these plants. We have yet to come to a definite conclusion, whether it is perfect and if there are any suggestions to be made to improve them further, we will pass them on to the industry.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know, Sir, if the gas plant manufactured at Bombay—known as the Gram Lakshmi Gas Plant—has been examined by the Government to find out its efficacy?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. It is being tried in the I.C.A.R. and we are trying to find out whether it is suitable.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know, Sir, how the production of gas from cow-dung will affect the manure position?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as we are concerned, Sir, it will not. The stuff left after gas is taken out is more or less suitable or equally suitable as cow-dung for manure purposes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, Shrimati Kale.

Shrimati A. Kale: I wanted to ask the same question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO PREVALENCE OF CORRUPTION IN RAILWAYS

*1898. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any Committee has been constituted to enquire into the prevalence of corruption in Railways?

(b) If so, who are its Members?

(c) If not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The Committee has not yet been constituted. The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In view of the assurance given by the Minister for Railways in reply to the general discussion on the Railway Budget, what is the reason for the delay in constituting the Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): It will be constituted very shortly.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT ERNAKULAM

*1899. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government sanctioned the expansion of the Telephone Exchange at Ernakulam (Travancore-Cochin)?

(b) Has the work in connection with the same been started?

(c) If not, why?

(d) How many connections are there now from the present Exchange?

(e) What is the number of pending applications?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 284 direct connections with 59 extensions.

(e) 239.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire, Sir, whether any assistance was sought for from the State Government to lodge a new Exchange and, if so, what has been the result?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, Sir, in view of the existing demand for a larger number of phones we have, on our own initiative, ordered for the installation of a Board with a larger number of connections, namely 500 to 600 C. B. Multiple Board. We have got the Board and the installation is being taken in hand.

Shri A. M. Thomas: My information is that the Board was received there a year back and I want to know when we can expect the installation there.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The whole project was sanctioned on the 3rd March, 1952. I do not think the Board could have reached there a year back, because, after the sanction of the project, some time must have been taken for the manufacture of the Board.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether, in view of the close proximity of the various Exchanges in that area, Ernakulam, Wellington Island, Port Cochin, and Cochin, the Government has enquired into the possibility