

have failed in their duty to supply water, and what action Government has taken in regard to this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I think the contractor has supplied water even by carrying the water in buckets to the workers at the work-spot.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that the water scarcity is so acute that the labourers are not getting adequate water and there are lots of complaints?

Shri Alagesan: That is why water is being supplied on the work spot. At small distances there are taps in various places. In three places there are taps.

MEMORANDUM FROM PRAJA SOCIALIST PARTY,
TIRUCHENGODE

*2184. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any representation has been received by the Government of India from the Praja Socialist Party, Tiruchengode complaining of the inadequacy of drinking water supply in the Tiruchengode area (Madras State) and requesting the Central Government to arrange for Power Boring (Drilling) Machines so that the wells can be deepened by 100 to 150 ft.?

(b) Are Government aware that ordinary ways of deepening will not yield results in this area as the water level has receded very much?

(c) What action do Government propose to take on this memorandum?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, what reply has been given to the representation submitted to the Government by the Praja-Socialist and what action the Government has taken to deepen the wells in this area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, enquiries are being made from the State Government, so far as the whole matter is concerned, and the information is being collected.

Shri C. R. Narasimham: In view of the acute shortage of water, are Government considering the suitability of deepening wells?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is primarily for the State Government to take action, Sir. There is water scarcity unfortunately all over India.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether there is any provision in the budget of the Government of India for undertaking such works when representations are received?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These will have to be referred to the State Governments. I do not think the responsibility rests with the Central Government.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Central Government rushed help to Rayalaseema and the wells were deepened there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In some cases it is possible; but it is not possible in all cases.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know the reason for this?

WATER SCARCITY BETWEEN CHAPRA AND
SONEPUR RAILWAY STATIONS

*2186. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of scarcity of drinking water between Chapra and Sonpur Stations on the N. E. Railway;

(b) whether Government are aware of several cases of faintings amongst the passengers for want of drinking water at Dighwara and Sitalpur Railway Stations; and

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item appearing in the issue of 'Indian Nation' Patna, dated the 24th April 1953, regarding the non-availability of drinking water between Chapra and Sonpur Stations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Government are not aware of any scarcity of drinking water for passengers at stations between Chapra and Sonpur on the North Eastern Railway.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, but the allegations made in the news item have not been found to be correct on enquiry by the North Eastern Railway.