

(b) Did Government receive any protests or representations from the public in this behalf, and if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). There have been some representations from the public to this effect. In the initial stages of transfer, there was some delay but it was not abnormal considering the overall position of claims cases. A strict watch is, however, being kept to see if any adjustment is required in the distribution of work between Calcutta and Gorakhpur.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government consulted all trade interests before making this transfer?

Shri Alagesan: I do not think the trade interests were consulted.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member who tabled the question is crowded out.

श्री आर० एन० सिंह : क्या सोनीपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट गोरखपुर स्टेशन तक फैला हुआ है ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are revenue districts and there are railway districts. What the hon. Member evidently wants to know is whether the Gorakhpur railway district covers revenue districts other than Gorakhpur?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: What the hon. Member evidently wants to know is this. There are three districts Banaras, Sonopore and Samastipur. He wants to know whether the Sonopore district extends up to the border of Gorakhpur City.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is not putting a question; he is giving an answer. The hon. Member need not take the place of the Minister. He must wait for some time.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know what special considerations weighed with the Government in making this change and transferring the office to Calcutta, thus causing inconvenience to near-by stations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that this matter was discussed for a whole day when the question of regrouping came up. Every effort was then made to show why one

place was more convenient than the other.

Shri T. N. Singh: According to regrouping the Head Office was to be at Gorakhpur and this is something which has been done otherwise.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: After the regrouping?

Shri T. N. Singh: Yes, Sir. A particular office, the Claims Office was shifted from Gorakhpur, which was the headquarters, to Calcutta.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was not in the original scheme?

Shri T. N. Singh: According to the original scheme, Gorakhpur was to continue to be the headquarters.

Shri Alagesan: As a result of the views expressed in this House by the hon. Member as well as other Members, it was decided to locate the headquarters of the North-Eastern Railway at Gorakhpur. When we did so, we wanted to get accommodation facilities for stationing the headquarters there. So this office had to be transferred to Calcutta. That is one thing. Another thing is we gave an assurance to the staff in the Pandu region that they will not be transferred without their consent. So we had to house them at Calcutta. They opted for Calcutta and we had to house them. So this claims office had to be shifted from Gorakhpur to Calcutta.

CULTIVATION OF RICE BY JAPANESE METHOD

*142. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Kora Gram Udyog Kendra at Borivli (Bombay State) has successfully tried the system of Japanese rice cultivation resulting in increase of rice output by tenfold and the Gandhi National Memorial Trust and the Kasturba National Memorial Trust have decided to popularise the scheme and have set apart Rs. 9 lakhs for the same?

(b) Have Government tried the Japanese method of rice cultivation in any experimental Agriculture Farm?

(c) If so, what are the results?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. According to a pamphlet issued by the Kora Kendra the increase in yield is considerable. It can under proper conditions be tenfold and above the average Indian production of about 650 lbs. per acre.

(b) Yes, the Japanese method of rice cultivation has been tried in the Government Agricultural School at Kosbad, District Thana, Bombay State, and at Karjat Rice Breeding Station, Bombay State.

(c) The detailed results have been called for and will be furnished as soon as these are received.

In view of the interest shown by Members of the House on the Japanese method of rice cultivation a detailed note on the subject is laid on the Table of the House which attempts to answer the points raised by Members in a number of questions of which advance notice has been received. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 31]

I may be permitted to add, Sir, that the report that the Government of India is proposing to import or bring into India five thousand Japanese families is completely unsubstantiated and is not true at all.

Shri Gidwani: What is the information about crop yields in places where experiments are tried?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As I said it goes right up to ten times. In many places it is five to six times.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether Government have got any scheme to popularise the Japanese method of rice cultivation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, a very detailed scheme which is already being put into effect.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government have calculated the expenditure incurred for a particular unit of production and compared it with the production of the Indian cultivator?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. We have got details of it. As I stated, we have called for more details from Kora Kendra.

Prof. H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it is a fact that the Minister of Agriculture admitted in a recent speech that Japanese cultivation which is all irrigated cultivation is based upon plentiful supply of rain and if so how is he going to ensure plentiful supply of rain?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have no intention of trying this method in places where rainfall is uncertain. We have a total area of seven and a half crore acres under paddy, one-third of which is under irrigation. And there are plenty of lands, almost millions of acres, where there is no question of scanty rainfall. We are going to try it only in suitable places.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know whether his attention has been drawn to certain press reports regarding the consternation among the workers of the Gram Udyog Kendra at Borivli, Bombay—workers of the Gandhi Nidhi—who suspect that the Government's scheme is a sort of subtle method to bring about the sale of ammonium sulphate which according to them is rather injurious?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is a very misleading report, Sir. The Gandhi Nidhi workers and Government are working in perfect harmony and co-ordination. Neither are the Gandhi Nidhi people against the use of ammonium sulphate, nor do we indulge in any propaganda for the sake of being salesmen of the Sindri Fertilizer Factory. That is not true.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is due to this Japanese method of cultivation that we have a large stock of fertilizers in the Sindri Factory?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yesterday questions were asked about the Sindri Factory. And it is an ironical question.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, it is our good fortune to have a good stock of fertilizers.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the number of acres that a family of four adult members can cultivate under this Japanese method?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are proposing only what they can cope with. We do not ask them to do the impossible.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT BETWEEN SANTALPUR AND PIPRELA STATIONS

*143. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there was an accident on the Kandla-Deesa Railway on the 28th December, 1952 between Santalpur and Piprela Railway Stations?

(b) Has any enquiry been held into the causes of the accident?

(c) Were there any casualties?

(d) If so, what was the number of such casualties?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. At about 5-45 hours on 28th December, 1952, 65 UP Mixed train partly derailed while running between Santalpur and Piprela stations.

(b) Yes. An enquiry was held by the Government Inspector of Railways, Bombay.