

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Conference on dissemination of agricultural informations by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, held at Lucknow in November 1952;

(b) if so, which of the recommendations will be given effect to;

(c) whether flannelgraph was arranged in the exhibition that was held along with the Conference; and

(d) what are the various interests that took part in the Conference?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Subject to the concurrence of the State Governments who have been addressed and the availability of funds, it is expected that almost all the recommendations will be implemented.

(c) Yes.

(d) Representatives of the Government of India, State Governments, Research Institutions, farmers, Members of Parliament and various trade interests connected with agriculture.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether Government have any intention of holding such Conferences every now and then, or in any other States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For the time being there is no such intention, because we are now engaged in implementing the recommendations of the Conference already held.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the method of the flannelgraph shown?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It would be difficult to describe it here. I am prepared to arrange an exhibition of it if necessary and if hon. Members desire.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether this Conference was held in U. P. at the invitation of the U. P. Government or at the instance of the I. C. A. R.?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Conference was held under the auspices of the I.C.A.R. There was no particular invitation; the U.P. Government very kindly accepted our suggestion to hold it there and gave us the benefit of the arrangements.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: May I know whether the Government have advised

the State Governments to use the village *patwaris* and village schools as a medium of information for the villages?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is intended, in order to afford the largest amount of information to the agriculturists, to use every possible agency. At the moment we are engaged in having tehsil level and district level committees. That will come in a little later.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether any expenditure was incurred on holding this Conference in Lucknow?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. Very little expenditure was incurred and the Ford Foundation met the expenditure.

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know why agriculturists were not represented in this Conference?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sure they were. I took special care to see that agriculturists were represented. Of course the hon. Members will realize that it is rather difficult to have a large number of agriculturists. But we did have accredited representatives of the agriculturists.

Shri Punnoose: Are Government aware that there are associations and unions of agriculturists, and may I know why none of them was invited?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am aware. There are some associations and organisations but, on the whole, not of very great standing or importance. All the same we do not want to disregard their importance and wherever possible we will certainly associate them.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what the Minister feels about the 'great importance', whether it is in terms of numbers or in the date of the organisation of the association or the spreading of knowledge among the agriculturists?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It depends more on those who take part in organising it, Sir.

RIVER TRANSPORT ON THE GANGA

***362. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Johannes J. Surie United Nations expert for inland water transport, had recently come to India to study the practicability of introducing river transport on the Ganga between Allahabad and Buxar;

(b) if so, how many places did Mr. Surie visit during the course of his study of the Ganga; and

(c) whether he has submitted any report to the Government of India in that regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes; Mr. Surie had been deputed to India by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration to assist in formulating a pilot demonstration project for testing the feasibility of towing barges on shallow stretches of the Ganga system by shallow draft tugs.

(b) On the Ganga, he visited Allahabad, Sirsa, Manda Road, Rampur, Mirzapur, Banaras, Kaithi, Buxar, Patna, Mokamehghat and Sakrigali-ghat. In addition he covered the stretch of the Ghogra between Patna and Barhajghat and also Dibrugarh and Gauhati in Assam.

(c) Copies of a preliminary report submitted by him to the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration have been received by the Government of India.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the report that has been received by the Government of India contained any information about the practicability of river navigation on the Ganga?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir, the report concerns that, and only the preliminary report has been submitted. It is under consideration, and the final report also is awaited.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the plying of the steamers affect the *ghats* of Banaras?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The plying of steamers will affect the *ghats*?

Shri Raghunath Singh: Yes, Sir, because of the shallow waters.

Shri Alagesan: I have no idea whether they will affect the *ghats*. I do not think they will affect the *ghats* of Banaras.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether any special type of vessels are going to be used for this transport, unlike what we see in India?

Shri Alagesan: He has been asked to say what type of vessels and tugs should be used for these stretches.

PROVISION OF WAGONS ON RAILWAYS

***364. Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the view expressed by Mr. E. T. Liei, an U.S. exporter of mineral ores from India, published in the *Delhi Express* dated the 25th November, 1952, to the effect that Madras Port is gradually losing its export trade in iron and manganese ores due to non-availability of wagons and state whether Government are taking any steps to restore normalcy by providing sufficient number of wagons?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): During the year 1951-52, export traffic in ores to Madras Port, which was 99,801 tons, was about five times that during 1949-50 and 1950-51. Consistent with the overall demands to be met within the available capacity for movement to Madras Port, the maximum quantum of ore traffic is being carried.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know how long it will take to bring about self-sufficiency in this respect.

Shri Alagesan: I think, Sir, we have been discussing this question all these days; and we are now carrying, as I said, five times what we carried in the previous two years.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no question of self-sufficiency. The quantity of output is increasing, the wagons are not enough; it is a race between the two.

Shri Basappa: Are Government aware of the fact that 10,000 workers in manganese mines in the famine-stricken areas of Mysore have been thrown out of employment due to the insufficient supply of wagons; if so, what is the action taken by Government?

Shri Alagesan: The hon. Member himself brought that situation to the notice of the Government, and the matter is under consideration.

Shri Basappa: What is the number of wagons required for transporting manganese ore from Banasandra railway station in Mysore to Madras, and how many are supplied in a month?

Shri Alagesan: I am not able to give the figures offhand.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Government is losing a lot of export duty, and that dollar earning is also lost on account of the shortage of the supply of wagons?