

Government gone into the question and come to some conclusions?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Representation in this respect has been received from vendors, and the high-powered Committee of which the hon. the Deputy Minister is the Chairman is considering that matter very seriously.

Shri Gidwani: Is it contemplated to change the system of giving licence to big contractors to one of giving the licences to small contractors or individual contractors?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That matter also is receiving very serious consideration.

MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS IN PUNJAB

*2089. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently approved a programme of Minor Irrigation Works in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the amount allocated for it?

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

(b) Rs. 233.37 lakhs.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Central Government gave any directive to the State Government to pay special attention to scarcity areas like Una in Hoshiarpur district and Hamirpur in Kangra district?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We do not specify any areas to any State Government. But since we are anxious to provide for the scarcity areas more particularly, as a general rule attention is invited to see that the scarcity areas in any particular State are attended to.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Central Government gave any directive to the State Government to look particularly into the conditions of those districts like Hoshiarpur and Kangra which are backward in this respect?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It would be going too far if we were to issue any directive as such.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if it is the policy of the Government not to give any directive to the State Government so far as the distribution of this is concerned?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The State Governments are responsible governments, and I am sure they will not make any mistake with regard to the proper choice.

Shri Heda: May I know what remedy lies with the Central Government if in spite of their directive the State Government neglect or ignore certain parts of the scarcity areas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sure they will do the needful.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that the scheme for minor irrigation works in Punjab has been given by the hon. Minister, will he kindly place a copy of the statement giving fuller facts about all the States on the Table of the House?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Every Member coming from each State has in turn asked this question, Sir, and most of the replies are already known to the House.

LOCOMOTIVES AND WAGONS

*2076. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri** (on behalf of **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair**): Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many locomotives and wagons have been purchased under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Programme; and

(b) from which countries and at what prices?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) None so far.

(b) Does not arise.