

JAPANESE METHODS OF RICE
CULTIVATION

*514. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 671 asked on the 5th March, 1954 and lay a statement on the Table of the House giving the comparative figures regarding the quantity of rice produced as well as the cost of production by the indigenous method and Japanese Method of rice cultivation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 1.]

Shri Dabhi: From the statement it appears that in all cases the average yield per acre by the Japanese method is greater than the average yield per acre by the indigenous method, but at the same time, in all cases the average estimated cost of production by the Japanese method is far higher than that by the indigenous method. This seems to nullify the advantage of the Japanese method. Have Government anything to say in this matter?

Shri Kidwai: If the hon. Member will read the table and work out the proportion of the production to the cost, he will find that the cost or production by the Japanese method is lower than that by the indigenous method.

Shri Dabhi: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the main features of the Japanese method of paddy cultivation as distinguished from the indigenous method?

Mr. Speaker: I think it will be too long a process. If he wants, he should read the reports.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: What is the reason for the great difference in the average yield between the Japanese method and the indigenous method in different States?

Shri Kidwai: Mainly the use of fertilizers.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know how much land is under the Japanese method of rice cultivation and how many tons of fertilizers are required for the production of rice?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the figure before me of the land that is being brought under the Japanese method this year. Therefore, if notice is given, I will reply to that question.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: From the statement, it appears that in many States there is a fantastic increase in yield, e.g. in Bihar, it has increased from 12 to 40 maunds per acre, whereas the increase in cost is only over a 100 per cent. or so. Have the Ministry checked up these figures? Is it not a fact that in most of the States, these figures are showed up?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Kidwai: I do not know what is the experience of the hon. Member with regard to his own State, but I accept it as correct.

Mr. Speaker: I presume he said that he accepts the statement as correct.

Shri Kidwai: I accept as correct the figures that we have received from the Government of Bihar.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In other places also.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

*515. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made with regard to the three pilot projects of inland water transport on the Ganga Brahmaputra waters; and

(b) whether the designs of the craft have been finalised and other preliminary arrangements made?