

**Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Was any request for help received by the Central Government from the State Governments?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** The Assam Government asked us to allot some rice at concessional rates and that has been done.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** With reference to the other causes referred to in part (a) of the question, has the attention of the Government been drawn to a peculiar disease which has attacked the rice crop in Burdwan, Murshidabad, Southern 24 Parganas and other districts? What is the report of the Government, if the Government has got any report in that respect? It is a widespread disease which has caused a lot of damage to the crop.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** If my friend is referring to rice bug which has been reported from various places, I may inform the House that very prompt action was taken in every case and whatever insecticide as well as apparatus was available, was supplied immediately.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Is the Government satisfied with the steps to prevent diseases?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a matter of opinion.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Our attention was drawn to a Press report that the Agricultural Research Department of the Government of Bengal was at a loss to know whether the disease to which I am referring was a physiological one or caused by any pest. Is there any report at the disposal of the Government on this subject?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am unable to say.

#### KARWAR-HUBLI RAILWAY LINE

\*191. **Shri R. G. Dubey:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bombay have recommended the construction of Karwar-Hubli Railway line?

(b) Is it a fact that the Karnatak Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies are demanding the construction of this line?

(c) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes.

(c) An out-agency has been opened at Karwar with Hubli as the serving railway station to meet the present traffic needs of the area. Before further action is taken Government would like to watch the working of the out-agency for some time.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** May I know what are the governing considerations in fixing up the priority in undertaking new railway lines?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** We had certain principles on the basis of which priority was given before. But, with the new Five Year Plan, of course, we have to draw up our programmes in consultation with the Planning Commission, now, because we will have to give priority to those Railway lines to which the Planning Commission attaches greater importance. Suppose there is a new mine to be developed or a new factory opened. Railway lines will have to be provided for these places first.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** Is it not a fact that the present arrangement in Hubli district is not able to cope with the growing volume of traffic in that region?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** As I have said just now, we will have to await the report of the working of the out-agency.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know whether, when new lines are constructed, Government will lay them as broad gauge?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** It certainly depends on the circumstances whether we should have broad gauge or metre gauge.

**Shri Bogawat:** What is the length of the Karwar-Hubli line?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** The hon. Member should know it better than myself.

**Shri Bogawat:** I do not know; therefore, I am asking.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Mr. Nanadas.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether new Railway lines are constructed only on the recommendation of the State Governments?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** The State Governments are certainly consulted and, of course, due weight is given to their opinion.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** Is it not a fact that this region, known as Bombay-Karnatak, is backward in development, socially and economically, and in view of the declared policy of the Planning Commission to develop backward regions, will Government consider this proposal?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is a matter to be decided by the Planning Commission. It is no use arguing that point. Next question.

**LOCAL FINANCE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT**

\*194. **Shri Jajware:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the time taken and expenditure incurred for the working of the Local Finance Enquiry Committee?

(b) What is the expenditure incurred on the publication of its reports?

(c) What steps have Government taken for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee and if not, why not?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) The Committee functioned from 14.4.1949 to 31.12.1950 and the expenditure incurred was Rs. 1,42,345.

(b) The expenditure was Rs. 7459/11/-.

(c) The Local Finance Enquiry Committee made as many as 149 recommendations and on practically all these recommendations action has to be taken by the State Government as Local-Self Government is a subject in the State list of the Constitution. The Report of the Committee was, therefore, circulated to the State Governments for consideration and necessary action. Most of the Governments have replied to the effect that the matter is under consideration while some of the Governments have accepted some recommendations and rejected the others. Action is likely to vary from State to State as local circumstances are different.

As far as the Central Government are concerned, the main recommendations are that the terminal taxes on goods or passengers carried by railways, sea or air which are now in the Central list of the Constitution should be transferred to the State list and also that while Central Government property may continue to be immune from Local taxation, Government should make a contribution to Local Bodies in lieu of such taxes. As far as these terminal taxes are concerned under Article 269 of the Constitution the taxes

will be levied and collected by the Central Government but assigned to the States. It is not considered necessary to alter this position. The question of Central legislation to take power for the levy of such taxes is under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance.

**Regarding the payment of contribution by the Central Government to Local Bodies in lieu of taxes certain particulars are being collected and it will take some time before a decision is reached.**

**Shri Jajware:** May I know whether the responsibility for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee in regard to terminal taxes, is wholly on the Central Government?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I have given the answer to this very clearly in my reply.

**Shri Jajware:** May I know whether the recommendation from the State of Bihar for the imposition of such tax in regard to the famous pilgrimage centre of Baidyanath Dhan is pending before the Central Government?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I have not any knowledge of that.

**Shri Jajware:** May I know whether a representation has been made by the M. Ps. of Bihar State to the Minister, and whether any action has been taken on that?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I have already said that it is the local bodies that have made representations. In certain matters relating to the Central Government, the Ministry of Finance is considering the position.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** May I know, Sir, what percentage of land taxes has been recommended to be given to the local bodies?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the report not published yet?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The report has been published and laid on the Table of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member may better refer to the Report rather than ask questions here.

**Shri S. C. Samantia:** The hon. Minister has stated that some of the States have accepted some of the recommendations of the Committee, and they are implementing them. May I know whether they are implementing those recommendations by Government's order, or