

Shri V. V. Giri: Because the resources of mines were either such that they could not make provision for adequate supply of water or their production capacity was expected to be exhausted within three years.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know why there is delay in launching prosecutions against those collieries which are not provided with pithead baths?

Shri V. V. Giri: There was no delay. We have launched prosecutions against some; we are continuing to prosecute some others. There is not much delay.

CIVIL AVIATION AIR PILOT TRAINING COMMITTEE

*311. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the nine-man Civil Aviation Air Pilot Training Committee has concluded its work and submitted its report to Government?

(b) If so, what are the chief features of that report?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHORT TERM CREDIT FACILITIES

*312. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India, as recommended by the Grow More Food Committee, have taken steps for making available short term credit facilities to the States for the purpose of financing agriculturists;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been prepared to give effect to the proposal and what are the important features of the scheme; and

(c) whether the scheme has been put into operation?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Short term loans of nearly Rs. 2 crores have been sanctioned to the State Governments during the current year for advancing taccavi loans to agriculturists for the purchase of seeds and fertilizers. The question of making suitable provision for this purpose in the future years is under consideration.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether any assessment has been

made regarding the requirements of taccavi loans by agriculturists?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are trying to provide Rs. 10 crores for the budget year 1953-54.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, as a result of the enquiries made by the Reserve Bank of India, whether any scheme has been evolved to afford credit facilities to the agriculturists?

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

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what is the nature of that scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not at this moment disclose all the details; but the Reserve Bank is seriously considering not only short-term, but medium-term and long-term loans also.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether Government have an estimate of the increase of rural indebtedness in recent years?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not say, I do not think this arises out of this question.

Shri Dabhi: In view of the fact thatordinate delays take place in the grant as well as disbursement of taccavi loans to agriculturists, the Grow More Food Committee has recommended that a maximum time-limit of six weeks should be laid down for the disposal of applications. If so, have Government.....

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid it comes within the jurisdiction of the States; besides, it is a suggestion for action.

Shri Syed Ahmed: On a point of order, Sir, a poem has been distributed to this House. I find a paper placed on my seat. It is an attack on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in very bad taste, on his birthday. Is it permissible to distribute this private leaflet to the House, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I am not prepared to accept that any officer of the Parliament Secretariat is responsible for that.

Shri Syed Ahmed: A Member has done it: is he right in doing that?

Mr. Speaker: It is a private affair; it is not a function of the House.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Is he entitled to distribute it in the House?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot presume he has distributed it—it may have been on the Member's table.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: It was distributed in the lobby and inside the House.

Mr. Speaker: Then I say it is very wrong on the part of any Member to distribute a personal leaflet.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Some of us found it on our seats.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe. Let us not pursue this matter.

Shri Syed Ahmed: It is a very bad attack on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Mr. Speaker: He is strong enough to take care of himself. Let us now deal with the Questions.

Shri Jasani: How much of this amount has been allotted to Madhya Pradesh?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Madhya Pradesh has had a fairly large share of Rs. 71-63 lakhs.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Inasmuch as the finance for taccavi loan is being given by the Central Government, should not a directive that the loan should be granted within six weeks of the application, go from the Central Government of the Grow More Food Committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The attention of the State Governments has been called to this recommendation.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, the amounts allotted to various States and also whether this Government has taken steps to see that these credit facilities really reach the cultivators and not go to others?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This again is a matter for the States.

Mr. Speaker: The Central Government may give grants, but the administration of it is entirely with the States.

Shri Punnoose: Am I to understand that this Government has nothing to do with its administration?

Mr. Speaker: One need not come to that conclusion immediately.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, how much has been allotted to the Madras Government and whether that money has been distributed by this time?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not answer the second part of the question. As regards the first part the amount allotted is Rs. one crore.

DIRECT RAIL LINK BETWEEN BOMBAY AND TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE

*313. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Finance envisaged the possibility of a direct rail link between Bombay State and Travancore-Cochin in an address he made in Bombay;

(b) whether any such scheme has been drawn up;

(c) whether any steps have been taken for the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) if so, what?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) I have not seen a text of the speech but the hon. Member's information may be correct.

(b) to (d). No such scheme has been drawn up, and I have so far had only some informal discussions with a few hon. Members and others.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Has the Government any idea with regard to the outlay that will be necessary?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We have no idea.

Shri A. M. Thomas: What is the mileage that will be covered, Sir?

Shri L. B. Shastri: 487. I think.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister has realised the feasibility of such a rail link between Bombay and Travancore-Cochin?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether there is at all any proposal on the part of the Government to do so?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, the project is bound to be very costly. The idea of having a rail link on the west coast is worth pursuing. If there are funds available, why should I have any objection to include it in the next five years' programme?

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know whether the Government is aware that at a recent conference held at Bombay the Government was requested to connect Mangalore with Bombay?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not exactly remember to have received any letter or representation on that, but