

### Prices of Important Cereals and Cash Crops

**1530. Shri Neswi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to work out the remunerative prices to buy and sell important cereals and cash crops like cotton, chillies and tobacco etc. in view of the policy of Government as propounded in the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) steps taken to announce to the cultivators such prices well in advance of the sowing season; and

(c) the steps taken to create permanent agencies both in the centre and the States to fix such prices and take other necessary steps to implement the above policy?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) and (b). Presumably, the Member seems to be referring to the fixation and announcement of minimum and maximum prices of important foodgrains and cash crops. So far as foodgrains are concerned, the matter is under consideration. Minimum prices for sugarcane delivered to sugar factories and maximum and minimum prices for cotton are already fixed and announced before the sowing season. In the case of jute, powers have been acquired by Government under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to fix minimum and maximum prices.

(c) The proposal to set up an Agricultural Commodities Advisory Committee which would, *inter alia*, advise the Government on matters relating to price policy is under consideration. In the case of cotton and jute, the Textile Commissioner and Jute Commissioner respectively are the appropriate Central agencies concerned with the implementation of price policies.

### Central Engineering Service (Roads)

**1531. Shri P. L. Barupal:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the service cadre of the Central Engineering Service (Roads) Class I, has not yet been constituted in implementation of the Recruitment Rules notified in September, 1959;

(b) whether it is also a fact that promotions to some senior posts have been made without constituting the Cadre;

(c) whether it is also a fact that *ad-hoc* confirmation to some senior posts is proposed to be made without constituting the Cadre;

(d) if the reply to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, how the interests of persons recruited through U.P.S.C. on the basis of competitive examinations are proposed to be protected; and

(e) the reasons for delay in constituting the Cadre?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (e). As all Class I Engineering posts in the Department of Transport (Roads Wing) are borne on the cadre of the Central Engineering Service (Roads) Class-I, the incumbents of these posts automatically constituted the Service with the promulgation of the Recruitment Rules for the Service in October, 1959. The seniority list of officers of and above the rank of Divisional Engineer Consultant (Class I—Senior) has already been prepared and shown to the officers concerned. The question of fixation of *inter se* seniority of officers appointed as Assistant Engineer Consultant (Class I—Junior) on the basis of the Combined Engineering Services Examination is under consideration. Their seniority list will be prepared as soon as their seniority has been determined and circulated among them.

Two officers have been promoted to the grade of Divisional Engineer Consultant after the promulgation of the Central Engineering Service (Roads), Class I, Recruitment Rules. These

officers were considered fit for promotion before the Recruitment Rules came into force and were promoted on the clear understanding that their promotion was purely temporary and would not entitle them to any claim of seniority over the officers not yet promoted. No *ad hoc* confirmation in the grade of Divisional Engineer Consultant is proposed to be made pending a decision on the question of fixation of seniority of Assistant Engineer Consultants. There is, therefore, no question of ignoring the interests of persons recruited through the Union Public Service Commission on the basis of competitive examinations.

#### **Vivisection of Animals in Laboratories**

**1532. Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the vivisection laboratories (experiments on animals) in the country, both licensed and unlicensed;

(b) the number of various species of animals used for experiments in these laboratories;

(c) the total number of animals and birds vivisected in a year;

(d) the number of those experimented without anaesthetics; and

(e) the results obtained by these experiments?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) to (e). In 1954, the Government of India set up a Committee to go into the whole question relating to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. In the course of its deliberations, the Committee collected detailed information on animal experimentation from 27 Medical Colleges, 8 Veterinary Colleges, 10 Serum and Vaccine manufacturing Institutions, 15 Medical Research Institutions and 12 Public Health Laboratories. The Committee also visited some of the leading Medical Colleges and Medical Research Institutes in the

country. The details of the institutions, the nature of research and experiments on which they are engaged, and the number and species of animals used by them is contained in Chapter III and Appendix XII to the Committee's Report, which was published in 1957 and copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. It will be seen therefrom that the animals commonly used for experimentation are frogs, mice, rats, guinea-pigs, rabbits, cats, dogs, sheep, goats, cattle, calves, buffaloes, horses and monkeys. Pigeons, fowls, chickens and chickemberyos are also used in some institutions. The main purposes of these experiments are diagnosis of human and animal diseases, research in the fields of medical and veterinary sciences, teaching and demonstration, preparation of Sera and Vaccine and standardisation of products other than sera and vaccine such as pharmaceuticals. According to the Committee's Report, the majority of experiments on animals carried out in India does not need anaesthesia as they consist of injections or inoculations which do not cause any appreciable suffering. Cutting operations are generally performed under the influence of anaesthesia.

No information on the subject has been collected after 1957. Chapter IV of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, however, provides for the setting up of a Committee for control and supervision of experimentation on animals, if considered necessary, on the advice of the Animal Welfare Board. The main function of this Committee would be to ensure that experiments on animals in India are performed in as humane a manner as possible.

#### **Doctors under N.D.M.C.**

**1533. Shri Balraj Madhok:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that doctors and staff posted in the dispensaries by the New Delhi Municipal Committee have been given living accommodation at long distances from the dispensaries;