

### Jabalpur-Itarsi Track

2551. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of doubling the track on the Jabalpur-Itarsi section of the Central Railway is behind schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the work is expected to be completed?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):**

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The doubling of 152.32 miles long Itarsi-Jabalpur section is being undertaken in stages. 17.35 miles doubling has since been completed and opened to traffic. The work on 54.15 miles doubling is in progress and is expected to be completed by December 1964. Of the remaining 80.82 miles, the doubling of 76.82 miles has been included in the Budget for 1963-64 and will be taken in hand shortly. This work is expected to be completed by the beginning of Fourth Plan. The doubling of Bagratawa Viaduct and Tunnel (2 miles) and Sher Bridge (2 miles) will be considered as and when necessity arises.

### Development of Hill Areas

2551-A. { **Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:**  
**Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Board for the Development of Hill areas; and

(b) if so, the functions and constitution of the proposed Board?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) and (b). The

Hill Development Seminar held recently at Simla has recommended the setting up of an appropriate high powered agency for looking after the development of hill areas in the country. The recommendation of the Seminar is under consideration of the Government of India.

### Minor Irrigation Works in Mysore

2551-B. { **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to press reports to the effect that Mysore State has diverted a part of the Plan allocation for minor irrigation works to the erection of a zoo;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact;

(c) the reason for such diversion of funds; and

(d) whether Government propose to discountenance such serious irregularities.

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) to (d). The required information is being collected from the Mysore Government and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received.

12.03 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### TREATMENT OF CHINESE INTERNEES IN INDIA

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

“The New China News Agency report regarding persecution and

[Shri Hem Barua]

maltreatment of Chinese internees in India."

**Shri D. C. Sharma** (Gurdaspur): I had sent a short notice question on this subject. My name has not been included in this calling-attention-notice.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not in my power to accept it. If the Minister cannot answer it at short notice, what can I do?

**The Minister of Home Affairs** (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The main allegations appearing regarding treatment to internees who were recently repatriated are:—

- (i) That they had been subjected to persecution and maltreatment while being taken to Madras from the Internment Camp;
- (ii) That they were without their belongings at the time of embarkation;
- (iii) That they were without money and without clothes other than that what they were wearing; and
- (iv) That some of their passports were seized.

These allegations have no basis whatsoever. The facts are:—

- (i) The internees were taken from Deoli to Madras by a special train in which all arrangements for their comfort, e.g. adequate accommodation, sanitation, meals, medical attention, etc. on the way were made. Rations on a liberal scale were sent with the train and arrangements for cooking were made in the kitchen car attached to the train. Special officers with two doctors and six nurses were also deputed to look after the comfort of the internees on the way.
- (ii) Internees were allowed to take their personal belongings with them as admissible under the

normal baggage rules. In addition to clothing these included personal and household effects, watches, fountain pens, 1 camera per family, personal jewellery upto Rs. 1,000 per family and furniture and kitchen utensils, household crockery, etc. In fact, some families had as many as 20 to 25 pieces of luggage with them. The Customs Authorities cleared all these items belonging to 900 internees within three hours.

- (iii) Each family was allowed to take the equivalent of £50 (viz. Rs. 666). This was a special concession not allowed to other persons leaving the country.
- (iv) Since the internees were returning to their own country and in their own ships, they did not need any passports for their travel. They were, however, given special exist permits without any other formalities.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that China has been indulging in a vitriolic campaign of calumny and fantastic lies against us, on the question of Chinese internees in this country, may I know what positive steps Government have so far taken to put our case across the world, with a view to nailing down or nailing these damn lies to the coffin or to counter?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Whether any positive steps have been taken to counteract that propaganda which has been carried on against us?—that is the only question.

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Yes, Sir. I myself have mentioned about it in a number of public meetings. It has appeared in the newspapers also. We have also informed Shri Banerjee who is in Peking in this regard. He has also tried to counteract these stories.

Thirdly, this question itself and my answer will help in giving much publicity to this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next call attention notice.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I have not got a full reply to my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has made a detailed statement. I do not think further questions need be put.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I do not put a question. But I submit this for your consideration. China has been carrying on a propaganda all the world over. I just wanted to know whether we have tried to counteract this propaganda.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is exactly what he has said.

**Shri Hem Barua:** He said that we have sent information to Shri Banerjee in Peking.

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

**Shri Hem Barua:** What about other countries in the world? Are we utilising our embassies in this connection?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is anything being done to counteract this propaganda by putting across our case and the story that we have in all other countries of the world?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** We have a fairly good reputation in this regard throughout the world, and I do not think those statements are generally believed by other countries.

12-07 hrs.

REPORTED SHORTFALL IN FOOD PRODUCTION TARGETS DURING THIRD PLAN PERIOD

**Shri Subodh Hansda (Jhargram):** I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported shortfall in food production targets during the Third Plan period.

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** We have seen the

report of yesterday in the *Statesman*.

We have not yet received full reports for the year 1962-63 about foodgrains production. In fact, rabi crops are still being harvested and there is no reason to believe that the reports that we have so far received have led us to a gloomy conclusion as appeared in *The Statesman*. It is also not correct to say that we had expected foodgrain production of about 83 million tons. Foodgrain production in the first year of the Third Plan, that is, 1961-62, was 79.8 million tons. According to a paper circulated by the Planning Commission, the production figure for the year 1962-63 is likely to be 80.8 million tons. The average foodgrain production during the pre-Plan quinquennium, that is, 1946-47 to 1950-51—foodgrains production—was 58.1 million metric tons. It went up to 85.8 million tons in the First Plan quinquennium and further to 74.9 million tons during the Second Plan quinquennium. Compared to these figures, the production figures for the first two years of the Third Plan are definitely higher.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** It is not based on the newspaper report of yesterday. It is the view of the Planning Commission that the current food production has gone down much below what has been expected by the Ministry. I would like to know, in view of the fact that the irrigation system in our country has been developed as claimed by the Ministry and also the use of chemical fertilisers has gone up...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He cannot make a speech.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** I want to put a question. If that is so, what are the other reasons for this shortfall? Is it a fact that the farmers have no enthusiasm for agricultural production or is there any defect in the Government organisation, as a result of which production in the country is falling?