

वन गवेषणा संस्था, वेहाराहून में  
कागज-संयन्त्र

\*318 श्री भगत बर्तन . क्या जाब तथा कुचि मंत्री २८ मई, १९५७ के ताराकित प्रश्न संख्या ५०४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि वन गवेषणा संस्था, वेहाराहून, में कागज-संयन्त्र लगाने के बारे में विलम्ब होने के कारणों की जो जाब की जा रही थी, उस के सम्बन्ध में इस बीच क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

जाब तथा कुचि मंत्री ( श्री अ० प्र० जैन )  
जाब का कार्य, प्रो० एम० एस० थेकर, महा-निदेशक, विज्ञान-उद्योग-अनुसन्धान परिषद् और सचिव, शिक्षा तथा वैज्ञानिक अनुसन्धान मन्त्रालय को सौंप दिया गया है। आशा है कि उन की रिपोर्ट इस मास के अन्त तक सरकार को दे दी जायेगी।

#### Gur Prices in Bombay

\*319. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of Gur (jaggery) in Bombay State is increasing, and

(b) if so, the steps Government intend to take to check the increase in the rates?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir During the past two months prices in Bombay have risen by about Rs 3 per maund

(b) Gur is particularly susceptible to humidity during the rainy season and some increase of price during the off-season is inevitable. Some sympathetic increase may be due to increase in sugar prices. Government do not consider it necessary to take any special steps at present.

#### Forest in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

\*320. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) how much of forest has been cleared in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands since 1947;

(b) how much of it has been utilised for human habitation;

(c) what are the names of private agencies through which forests have been cleared so far;

(d) whether the agencies employed have to pay royalties to Government; and

(e) if so, what were the royalties settled and how much has been paid up-to-date?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Clearance of forests in the Andamans under the Colonization Scheme, was started only in 1952-53. Since then, 11,038 acres of forest land have been cleared.

(b) The entire area has been utilised for human habitation.

(c) Only one—M/S P C Ray and Co (India) Ltd, Calcutta

(d) Yes, on the timber extracted from the cleared area and exported to the main land.

(e) The royalty is payable on timber extracted and exported from the Andamans by the agency, at rates prescribed in a schedule under an Agreement of Licence for the extraction of timber from North Andamans. The rates are different for different types of wood. The royalty paid by the agency on the timber extracted from the areas under Colonization, are not separately available.

#### Locust Invasions

\*321. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently been warned in respect of possible heavy locust invasions;