

(b) While a scheme for eradication of disease in selected areas of Bagaha (Bihar) is under operation since May, 1957, a co-ordinated scheme for the States of Punjab, U.P. and Bihar is being worked out by the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee to supplement the efforts of the State Governments.

(c) It will involve expenditure of Rs. 72,000/- during the current financial year out of which Rs. 36,000/- will be paid by the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee. The estimated annual cost of the co-ordinated scheme is Rs. 66,000/-.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the measures which have been taken in North Bihar and eastern U.P. to control this disease?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are only two things that we can do. The first is to give healthy, improved disease-free cane seed. In eastern U.P., about 14,92,827 mds. of this kind of seed has been distributed. The other measure is to up-root those stems which are affected and this has also been done.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the sugarcane factories of the areas concerned have been directed to start the early crushing of the diseased sugarcane?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not say; I would like to have notice.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether it is an oft-repeated disease?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is confined to certain areas in Punjab, U.P. and Bihar. But, we have been able to control it in some of the parts. And, I think that with this scheme we will be able to eliminate it.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether no proper steps have been taken to stop any fresh disease?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is not correct. The disease is the same, not a fresh disease.

Shri Anirudh Saha: May I know whether in Bihar there is a progressive loss of recovery of sugar from sugarcane from the year 1954 and I would like to know what are the causes of that and whether it is due to the presence of red rot or what?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice.

Preservation of Wild Life

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*174. { **Shri V. C. Shukla:**
Shri Mohan Swarup:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe depletion of wild life in general that is taking place throughout the country;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to encourage preservation of wild life;

(c) whether any estimate has been made of the effectiveness of the steps so far taken; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating any further steps calculated to stop the depletion of wild life of the country?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 78.]

(c) These steps have led to arousing general consciousness in the country regarding the need for Wild Life preservation. Some States at least report increase in wild life in their Reserved Forest areas.

(d) None, beyond those enumerated in the Statement laid on the table. Suggestions in this regard will be welcome.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know how many States have set up State Wild Life Boards and taken steps

under the model Bill for Wild Life Preservation sent by the Centre to the various States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I have not got the list. But, more than half a dozen States, to my knowledge, have done so.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Out of the Rs. 135.4 lakhs provided by the Central Government, how much money has been utilised by the various States in the Wild Life Preservation Scheme?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These schemes require some time because expenditure is intended on new National Parks and so on. I have not got the figures of what exact expenditure has been incurred but, I think, on the whole, the States are keen on utilising it.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Will the Government of India consider insisting on the States having at least one game sanctuary within their borders so that deforestation will not drive animals to unnatural surroundings?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It must be left to the State Governments to decide. We want to create interest in the scheme. On the whole, I think, every State has got one or two sanctuaries.

Shri Basappa: Does the Governor of Mysore continue to be the Chairman of the Wild Life Preservation Committee and, if so, has he submitted any report?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes; he does continue. He takes very keen interest and it is desirable to continue him further.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the reference made by the hon. Minister to National Parks, may I know what steps Government have so far taken to develop the sanctuary at Kaziranga into a National Park?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The details would be available with the State Government. I could not give all the information.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have taken any special steps for the preservation of certain animals which are fast getting extinct and, if so, what are the animals in respect of which such steps have been taken?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This would be a long list. It is not possible for me to give it now. This is the central aim of the Wild Life Preservation Board, to try to preserve those species of birds and animals which are likely to be extinct. Necessary steps are being taken with respect to Gir lions and others.

Bridge over Brahmaputra

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*175. { Shri Amjad Ali:
Shri Basumatari:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bridge across the Brahmaputra river has been provided in the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) the estimated cost of the bridge;

(c) whether the bridge will be constructed from Amingaon to Pandu or from Jogighopa to Golpara; and

(d) when the construction is expected to begin?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Roughly Rs. 10 crores.

(c) Pandu-Amingaon.

(d) The actual construction of the bridge is likely to be taken up in the working season of 1958-59. Preliminary arrangements are being made.

Shri Amjad Ali: The Pope Committee appointed as early as 1942 surveyed this particular bridge project of Pandu Amingaon, and it was given up as unsuitable and the Bradshaw Committee went into the question and they finally decided to bridge the river at Jogighopa-Golpara site. Was there any fresh survey made before this site Pandu-Amingaon was selected?