

Teak Plantation

*194. { **Shri Panigrahi:**
Shri Bishwanath Roy:

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

(a) whether Government of India has decided to make efforts to increase teak plantation in India;

(b) which of the States in India have been considered suitable for teak growing; and

(c) whether the Orissa Government has informed the Union Government with regard to the suitability of teak cultivation in the State?

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

(b) Areas suitable for raising teak plantations are likely to be available in all States other than Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.

(c) Yes Sir.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know which area was given by the Orissa Government as suitable for teak cultivation in the State Forest Ministers' Conference in Assam?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know the name of the particular area. The original proposal was, a total acreage of 8105 in the State of Orissa. Out of this, 1870 acres have already been planted; 1434 acres are being done in 1957-58 and 2045 acres are proposed to be planted in 1958-59.

Shri Panigrahi: What assistance does the Government of India propose to give for promoting teak cultivation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We give 100 per cent loans.

Shri V. C. Shukla: What is the nature of the effort that the Government of India is going to make to increase teak plantation in the various States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a working plan. At a recent meeting in

Shillong, we impressed upon all Forest departments in the States to give this the highest possible priority and bring in larger and larger acreage. As I have already stated, 100 per cent loan is given for this.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: What was the total amount of teak wood imported from Burma during the last year? May I know whether we are going to stop this import in the future and give priority to our own plantations?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The quantity imported will have to be inquired from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

But unfortunately we are still deficient and teak takes a very long time to grow. It is difficult to say when we will be self-sufficient.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister must be posted with the information. It relates to his Ministry. When he wants to grow teak in this country, should he not have an idea as to how much is imported, when we are going to be self-sufficient, in how many years? These are natural supplementaries to be asked.

श्री ए० ए० द्विवेदी . मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच नहीं है कि अंडमान में टीक ब्रिटेन को भेजा जाता है ? क्या सरकार ने खयाल किया है कि अंडमान से यह टीक काफी मिल सकता है और उस का बाहर भेजना रोक दिया जाय ?

डा ए० शा० देशमुख अंडमान से जो टीक निकलता है वह सब देश में जाता है ।

श्री ए० ए० द्विवेदी ब्रिटेन को भी जाता है ।

Shri Heda: Is it not a fact that the best teak in India is from Ballarshah, and if so, what particular efforts are being made for the intensive plantation of teak in the Ballarshah region, i.e., at Bastar and the eastern and western side of Godavari?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That area now forms part of Bombay State, and they are taking every step to increase it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any assistance has been given to Andhra State, and if so, what is the amount given?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I must ask for notice.

Food Situation

*195. **Shri N. R. Munisamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the food situation as a result of the fixation of ceiling prices by the Government of India particularly in the regions of Southern Zone this year (1958);

(b) whether rice from Andhra is being supplied to Madras;

(c) how much of rice was supplied to Madras State by the Government of India as loan for being distributed through the Fair Price Shops up to now;

(d) whether total requirements of rice in Madras and Kerala would be met by internal crop prospects or is it to be supplemented by imports; and

(e) if so, by how much?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, the formation of the Southern Zone and the fixation of ceiling prices in the surplus districts of Andhra Pradesh have been beneficial.

(b) Some movement of rice from Andhra to Madras is taking place on trade account.

(c) About 16,000 tons of rice was supplied during the period October, 1957 to January, 1958 and another 4,000 tons is being supplied during February, 1958.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir, the total requirements of Madras and Kerala are expected to be met out of internal production including the surplus of Andhra.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the alarming statement made by the Food Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the effect that unless the ceiling price is increased and the southern zone dissolved, private trade will be going on and they will not be in a position to render any help to the Central Government in checking this private trade? What is the reaction of the Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): I could not fully catch the question.

Mr. Speaker: It is so long. Let there be one short question.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that the Food Minister of Andhra Pradesh has made the alarming statement that unless the ceiling price is increased and the southern zone is dissolved, private trade would be going on unchecked, because there is smuggling going on from Andhra Pradesh to Hyderabad, from Hyderabad to Bombay and from Bombay to Goa and thereafter to neighbouring countries?

Mr. Speaker: He only wants to know if the Food Minister of Andhra has asked that the ceiling prices should be increased.

Shri A. P. Jain: I have explained the whole position in a statement which I laid before the House the other day. It is a fact that the Food Minister of Andhra Pradesh wants procurement prices to be raised, and the southern zone scheme to be modified. We have not agreed to either of those things.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to a press statement of the Chief Minister of Andhra that no smuggling is allowed from Hyderabad to other States?

Shri A. P. Jain: He has not said so exactly. He said, if I remember correctly, that there is no smuggling from Andhra to Goa.