

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: He has referred to a statement which has been laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Let it be so; but it is only a matter of opinion. To say that it is his duty and that he should see.....

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the hon. Minister...

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow the hon. Member just to get into this and put a question. Hon. Members will kindly refrain from introducing arguments.

Shri Yajnik: Has any action been taken against the persons who have been charge-sheeted?

Shri Karmarkar: These men have been charge-sheeted. To enable us to know who was at fault we thought that it should be enquired into, and we so advised the Central Water and Sewage Board.

We thought it necessary at this stage to know what we could do. We considered the legal position and we found that we were not in a position to enforce our decisions in the matter. And, we do hope that in view of the swift action taken by the Water and Sewage Board, they will do justice in the matter. That is the exact position.

Mr. Speaker: All that was wanted was whether some case has been launched after the charge-sheet.

Shri Karmarkar: I think it is a very serious matter. Though not at present, some time or other it is bound to arise. Therefore, I thought I should be frank to the House and keep them informed of everything essential in this particular important matter.

Mr. Speaker: I would only say that whenever a report is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha and we do not have an opportunity to discuss, the hon. Minister will himself make a statement if he thinks necessary.

Shri Karmarkar: I stand corrected.

Tankers

*1528. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state how many Tankers are proposed to be acquired during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The Second Plan envisages the acquisition of three tankers of which two have already been acquired, one in the public sector and the other in the private sector. A third tanker is proposed to be acquired in the public sector as soon as circumstances permit.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know from where these tankers have been acquired? With what country are we having negotiations for the acquisition of the third tanker?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am afraid I will require notice about the origin of these tankers.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: Tankers being one of the simplest form of ships that are built, is there any plan to build tankers in India?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): So far no tanker has been built in India.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not know how the lady Member came to the conclusion that this was very simple.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the value of the tanker that has been acquired?

Shri Raj Bahadur: About £6,50,000 or Rs. 85 lakhs.

Coal Industry in West Bengal

*1529. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government had to share any expenditure for the

Coconut Research Stations and Nurseries which have been established in the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, how much and for what schemes; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage Coir Industry in West Bengal by the Indian Central Coconut Committee?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No Coconut Research Station has been established so far in West Bengal. Reply in respect of Coconut Nurseries is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 75.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find the share borne by the West Bengal Government. What is the share of the Indian Central Coconut Committee? May I know if trials in the new varieties—both local and outside varieties—are being carried on there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The statement gives the share of the State Government. I do not think that there was any contribution from the Committee. There has been long correspondence between the Committee and the State Governments with regard to the establishment of coconut research station but unfortunately we have not come to any definite conclusion yet.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The production of coconut in West Bengal justifies the coir industry there. May I know why the coir board has been silent so long and has only now come forward to establish a research station?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid the coir board is controlled by some other Ministry and the question must be addressed to that Ministry.

Shri Barman: There is great demand for coconut plants in North Bengal and the Cooch-Bihar nursery is not

able to meet that demand. What steps are Government taking to step up production?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are more anxious to establish these nurseries. Unfortunately, the State Government is not in a position to contribute a matching grant. That is where the matter has really been held up and we will try our best.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated that the Central Coconut Committee has not made any contribution to the Bengal fund. May I know the reason for that and also if there is any idea on the part of the Committee to make proper contribution to that fund?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It was with respect to what has been stated in the statement. The Committee is anxious to make its own contribution according to the formula which it makes in respect of every State and we are anxious to give that money.

Shri N. B. Maiti: What is the ratio between the State and Central Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Generally 50 : 50. But, in the course of correspondence with the State Government of West Bengal, we had agreed to 50 : 50 in the expenditure. So far as revenue is concerned, we were prepared to take 40 per cent and now we have reduced it to 33 and one-third per cent.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Does this amount of grant vary from year to year—more in the first year and less in the subsequent years?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Generally it does. But we were prepared to consider West Bengal's case. Especially, we were prepared to pay and vary the proportion a little.