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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 27th November, 1952

*The House met at a Quarter to Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (FOREIGN EXPERTS)

*746. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign experts who are at present engaged in the services of the Government of India in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture; and

(b) the number of foreign experts working in India under the Indo-U.S. Technical Co-operation Agreement?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) 14.

(b) 64.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How far has the presence of these foreign experts led us towards self-sufficiency in respect of technical know how in the field of Food and Agriculture?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is helpful, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the average monthly or annual expenditure incurred by Government in respect of the travelling and other allowances of these experts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It would be very difficult to calculate. I have not got the figures, but the amount is comparatively insignificant.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any foreign experts are going to be associated with the recently

founded Division of Agricultural Publicity?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a likelihood.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know how many?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That has not been determined.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: We find from para 3 of Article 1 of the Indo-American Technical Co-operation Agreement that our Government has undertaken to provide to the American Director, his staff and the team of specialists all facilities for supervising how the fund is spent. Could we have some idea as to the kind of facilities that are made available to the American Director and his team of specialists?

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

Shri S. N. Das: May I know for how long this flow of foreign experts will continue and is it going to be stopped in the near future?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The period is stated in the statement already laid on the Table. The information as to how long they are likely to continue to be here is given in the case of every technician.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether these foreign experts have been called here at the initiative of the foreign Governments or at the suggestion of our Government and for the subjects selected by our Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is entirely at our initiative that they have come.

GHEE ADULTERATION COMMITTEE REPORT

*747. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Ghee Adulteration Committee appointed in May, 1951 has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, which of the recommendations of the Committee have been accepted and given effect to by Government?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Committee has made the following important recommendations:

(1) Under the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947 incorporation of sesame oil in the vegetable oil product is compulsory so that the product gives the Baudouin test which is a distinctive test for the presence of sesame oil. The Government should ensure by law that every lot of vanaspati, produced in a factory should be accompanied by a certificate that it gives the Baudouin Test. Efforts should also be made to make extensive use of this test and municipalities and other bodies should be asked to use this test for detecting adulteration of ghee with vanaspati.

(2) All vanaspati produced in the country should be coloured orange by using carotene oil concentrate as a colouring medium in addition to the incorporation of sesame oil.

(3) Vanaspati should be fortified with synthetic Vitamin 'A' so that its nutritive value could be increased.

The Government of India have accepted the recommendations No. 1 and 3 and necessary steps to implement them are being taken under the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when this report was received and when was the final consideration given to it by Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Now that the final consideration has been given, I do not think the date is very material. I am afraid I could not give the date, although I can mention that Government's resolution was issued sometime in October 1952.

Shri S. N. Das: What were the functions of the Expert Committee on Ghee? Were they similar to those of this Committee?

Mr. Speaker: The Committee has reported, I think. He may refer to the report.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: He refers to the Committee on Ghee.

Shri S. N. Das: Yes, Sir. Apart from the Ghee Adulteration Com-

mittee there was another Expert Committee on Ghee which was appointed, I think, in 1949.

Mr. Speaker: He refers to another Committee. Can the hon. Minister answer that question?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What are the reasons for not accepting recommendation No. 2.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Recommendation No. 2 was not accepted for the following four reasons:-

(1) This was not a unanimous recommendation. There were minutes of dissent by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Dr. Patwardhan.

(2) The colour imparted by carotene oil concentrate is of unstable nature and will disappear when vanaspati is heated or is kept without heating for some months.

(3) The Committee has stated nothing about the adaptation of the carotene colour which should be given to vanaspati. They have left this point for the decision of the Government and this will inevitably mean the conduct of further experiments.

(4) Carotene oil concentrate is not produced in India and its import will cost Rs. 1 crore annually in dollars.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that vanaspati is mixed with *shudh ghee* and *shudh ghee* is always sold with this mixture, may I know whether Government has any other scheme of colouring to prevent this mixture, because this is very necessary?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The method is being continuously investigated and the present position is as I have stated in reply to this question.

CENTRAL MANURE (COMPOST) DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*748. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the important features of the work so far done by the Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee constituted in March, 1948;

(b) whether this Committee is likely to continue or whether it has been wound up;