

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that during the three years from 1947-48 to 1949-50 there has been an increase of production of only about 50,000 coconuts. May I know, Sir, why areas in West Bengal and Assam where there is a large prospect of coconut cultivation, have not yet been taken up?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: My friend who is a member of this Committee is in a better position to answer the question.

Shri N. P. Damodaran: May I know, Sir, how many research stations are there on the West Coast of India and where they are located?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice of that question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the percentage of coconut oil available in India through imports and internal production which is consumed for purposes of food as also the percentage which is used for soap industry?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid this information will have to be asked from the Commerce and Industry Department.

JUNGLE-CUTTING CONTRACTS

*751. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the Divisional Engineers, Telegraphs, favoured certain contractors in the year 1943 and gave them the entire amount of contract money even before their tenders were actually accepted;

(b) whether he ignored all rules and propriety in helping the contractors and put Government to a loss in connection with the work of jungle-cutting; and

(c) what action has so far been taken against that Divisional Engineer and what post is he occupying now?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). Certain grave irregularities alleged to have been committed by a Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, were brought to the notice of Government. After due enquiry in accordance with the prescribed procedure, the case has been referred to the Union Public Service Commission for their advice as required under the rules. The Commission's recommendations are awaited.

The officer mentioned above is now officiating as a Director of Telegraphs.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, what is the amount of loss involved?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The total amount of loss has not been calculated by me but a part of that loss is proposed to be realised from him.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is that amount?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is proposed that Rs. 12,000 will be realised from him if the Union Public Service Commission so agree.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the fact that there is a strong allegation against this particular officer, is he allowed to enter into further contracts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: At present he is discharging the normal functions of the post he is holding.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know as to when Government came to know of these irregularities and why it has taken such a long time to refer the case to the Public Service Commission?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The matter pertains to the year 1943. The case was handed over to the Police who took two years to complete the investigation. That came to about 1945. They recommended that departmental action only would meet the needs of the situation. Then a charge-sheet was framed. Meanwhile the case was taken to a court and all the relevant documents on the basis of which departmental proceedings will have to be taken against the officer were filed in the court. We have obtained copies of these documents and on the 16th January 1952 we have framed a fresh charge-sheet against him.

ANTI-LOCUST OPERATIONS (CHEMICALS)

*752. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what chemicals have been used in the anti-locust operations by the Central Government; and

(b) whether any research was done prior to the use of chemicals to find out whether these chemicals will or will not be injurious to the vegetation in the areas in which they are used?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Benzene Hexachloride 2.5—10 per cent. and Aldrin.

(b) Yes; Experiments carried out in U.S.A. have proved that these insecticides are not injurious to plants. This has been confirmed by our use of them in India. Nowhere has vegetation been injured by them.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether these insecticides have