

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know if there are any penalty clauses in the terms of the contract in the event of failure to keep to the terms by either side?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the copy of the agreement but we take every care while entering into an agreement to see that we are fully protected. The hon. Member may be sure that we leave no loop-holes.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know why this quantum of wheat cannot be revealed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These are somewhat delicate negotiations because we have to deal with other countries also. It is therefore not in the public interest to give the information.

Shri Mohiuddin: May I know what is the arrangement Government have for testing the quality of wheat before it is shipped from Argentina?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have made certain arrangements. I hope the officers concerned will bear in mind the hint which the hon. Member has given.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know what precautions Government have taken to prevent the loss incurred due to leakage of barter news as it was last time?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I cannot say more than that Government takes every precaution to see that there is no loss.

Shri Barman: May I know from the hon. Minister whether in our import of food-grains from outside, just as in this case from Argentina, if there is a loss in transit, who bears the loss? Has any loss been redeemed by any party up till now?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It will depend on the facts of each particular case but I am sure that the country's interests would not be allowed to be jeopardized or on unnecessary loss will be incurred in dealing with such matters.

CENTRAL COCONUT COMMITTEE

*1135. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an enquiry into the working of the Central Coconut Committee and if so, with what results;

(b) whether the grants paid by the Committee to two marketing societies were properly utilized; and

(c) whether these marketing societies are working at present?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No enquiry into the working of the Indian Central Coconut Committee was contemplated. But attempts are being made to improve its working.

(b) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the marketing Societies at Vaikkom and Narakkal in the Travancore-Cochin State which were set up as Co-operative Societies in 1946 for promoting co-operative effort among the Coconut growers. In 1948-49 it came to the notice of the Indian Central Coconut Committee that the Narakkal Society was not properly utilising the grants made by it. After due investigation it was decided to discontinue the grant in November 1950. The grant to Vaikkom Society was also discontinued at the same time for similar reasons.

(c) Government are not aware of the working of these Societies after the stoppage of the grant of the Coconut Committee.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know what is the total amount of grant paid to these two societies for marketing purposes for the last four years?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am very sorry, I have not got the figures, but I will give it to the hon. Member later, if he wants.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether Government have taken any action against the persons responsible for not utilising the grants given to this Committee for marketing purposes properly?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I am aware of this complaint. I am afraid I cannot give the details, because it is a transaction of a few years back. We are trying to get the information to see if there is anything fishy about it.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether a charge has been generally levelled against the Government, that the recommendations of the Central Coconut Committee are not being accepted by the Government? If so, what is Government's view on the matter?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is not correct. Sir, sometimes certain financial sanctions may have been withheld. That is a general complaint made from time to time by all commodity committees. The Ministry of

Agriculture makes every effort to help the Committees.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Coconut Committee has already started a scheme of clearing forests and transplanting coconuts there? What is the estimated cost of this, and will it be financed by the sale of the trees or otherwise?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Central Coconut Committee has many schemes in hand. I have not got the details which the lady Member wants, with me here.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire, as the hon. Minister has heard the objections or the complaint against the Central Coconut Committee which have been voiced in this House, whether in his contemplated tour of Travancore-Cochin which is scheduled to take place next week he will enquire into the charges which have been levelled against the Committee and also inspect some of the research centres which have been started by the Central Coconut Committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I will try my best to get the information suggested by my friend and do all I can within the time at my disposal.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am giving a chance only to Travancore-Cochin Members. Mr. Velayudhan.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Coconut Committee has given grants to any other marketing societies?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not to my knowledge.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know, Sir, whether the two societies to which grants were given are still functioning? What is their present condition?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have already replied, Sir, that our interest in these societies ceased once we stopped giving grants. I am not aware whether they are functioning.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: In the light of the facts given by you.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not by me.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Have Government any idea of dissolving the Committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May we know, Sir, when the complaint about the misuse of grants first reached the Ministry?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is only of a recent date.

Shri P. T. Chacko: Is it a fact, Sir, that the State Government ordered the prosecution of certain persons responsible for misusing these grants, and subsequently somehow the idea was dropped because of the work done by the Coconut Committee?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If I may imitate my hon. friend on this side, Mr. Giri, I would like to say that I take the information from the hon. Member.

GHEE ADULTERATION COMMITTEE REPORT

*1136. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (b) of Starred Question No. 747 asked on the 27th November 1952 regarding report of the Ghee Adulteration Committee and state:

(a) what are the steps taken so far to give effect to the recommendation of the Ghee Adulteration Committee;

(b) to what extent the Municipalities and other bodies have made use of the Baudouin Test for detecting adulteration of Ghee with *Vanaspati*; and

(c) whether any final formula has been found and accepted by Government as regards colouring medium for colouring *Vanaspati*?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) (i) The factories have been directed to maintain with effect from 1-4-53 a record of Baudouin Test of each batch of *vanaspati* produced in the factory.

(ii) Each batch has to be certified by the factory chemist to the effect that the same conforms to the required Baudouin Test.

(iii) The State Governments have been asked to instruct the local bodies to make an extensive use of this test for detecting adulteration of ghee with *vanaspati*.

(iv) It has been decided to add 300 I.U. of synthetic Vitamin 'A' per ounce of *vanaspati* and arrangements for import of the same are being finalised.

(v) The Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research have been requested to consider the possi-