

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the actual figures, Sir. But, as everybody knows, this year's stock, on the 1st of January, was much larger than at any time in the history of the sugar industry.

**Shri Mohiuddin:** May I know whether it is a fact that about three months ago, it was reported that when the Government released the stocks from the factories, the factory owners purchased the stocks in their own names and kept it in hoarding to raise the prices?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the information. If the hon. Member will supply it, I will look into it.

**Shri Jasani:** The hon. Minister said that the sugar was not available at the controlled price. May I know what are the reasons for not getting the sugar at controlled prices?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am unable to follow the import of the question, Sir.

**Shri Jasani:** He said that there were complaints that sugar was not available at the controlled prices. May I know what are the reasons for not getting sugar at controlled prices?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I did not refer to the controlled price. I merely referred to the difference between the two prices and the possibility of lower prices ruling as a result of the new sugar manufactured.

#### RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR ARECANUT

\*1138. **Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a Research Laboratory for arecanut; and

(b) if so, where it will be located and what are the reasons for locating it in the place decided?

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

(b) No decision has yet been taken as to where the Laboratory will be located.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** May I know whether Travancore-Cochin is one place where arecanut is produced more than in any other place?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is likely, Sir, but I am really not quite certain. But, it is one of the principal States.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Government take into consideration the fact that the problems affecting.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is a suggestion for action.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** May I know whether the cost of production of arecanut in the Travancore-Cochin State is much more than in any other State?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That is likely.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** What are the States that produce arecanuts in India?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I think my hon. friend knows that quite well.

**Shri Achuthan:** May I know whether the position of Travancore-Cochin will be considered in locating the Research Centre since the largely grown arecanuts there are easily affected by pests and other diseases?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I will take this suggestion into account.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** May I know the places which are being considered by Government now as suitable for the location of this Research Laboratory?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am afraid I have not got the information here.

**Shri C. R. Iyyunni:** May I know, Sir, what are the considerations that will prevail with the Government in settling the place where the Research Institute should be located?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The suitability of the place, evidently.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I enquire whether the Central Arecanut Committee, in its last meeting, considered the location of the Research Station and, if so, what is its recommendation?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am afraid I have not got the information.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know what are the items of research work that would be taken up immediately?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** They are numerous and therefore it will take long to mention them here.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** Why not the laboratory used for Coconut Research be used for the arecanut research also, because the problems are the same?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That suggestion will also be taken into account.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Arecanut Committee was running side by side with the Coconut Committee under the same Secretary? And was not research done in the laboratory of the Coconut Committee? May I know what was the difficulty in not carrying on the work in the same laboratory?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That also amounts to the same suggestion; it will be duly considered.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Arecanut has no water while coconut has water.

#### GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA WATER TRANSPORT BOARD

\*1140. **Shri Dhusiya:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how many meetings of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board have taken place so far?

(b) Have the members reached any conclusions and if so, what?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Two.

(b) The Board is a standing body and has considered a number of preliminary problems connected with the improvement of navigation on the Ganga-Brahmaputra systems. The most important recommendation of the Board so far is that a Pilot Demonstration Project for testing the feasibility of using shallow draft tugs for towing barges on shallow stretches of rivers in India should be conducted under its own auspices in collaboration with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

**Shri Dhusiya:** May I know, Sir, who are its members and how many of them are Government servants?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The Committee consists of a Chairman....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How many members?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Five members.

**Shri Dhusiya:** How many of them are Government servants?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** All the five, Sir.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** May we know whether this Board is taking full advantage of the advantages held out by Government of the Sealands?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What is the question?

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Is this Board taking full advantage of the amphibious advantages of the Sealands held out by the Government?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** I am sorry, I have not been able to follow the question.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Sir, only a few days back we talked a lot about the wonderful amphibious Sealand aircraft. I want to know whether this particular Board has taken full advantage of the claims that have been made out by Government?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What is it that the hon. Member is referring to?

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** I was told by the hon. Deputy Minister of Defence that this amazing aircraft is very, very suitable for calm waters and that sort of thing and I thought that it will be very useful for....

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** It is primarily meant for purposes of Defence and not for purposes of transport.

#### COACHES FOR NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

\*1141. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to put into use the new types of coaches on the N.E. Railway in the year 1953-54;

(b) how many new coaches are required for replacement on that Railway at present; and

(c) whether any attempt is being made to manufacture them in the Railway Workshop at Gorakhpur?