

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know, Sir, whether Government have received any representations to open ticket booking stations in Travancore-Cochin State to suit the convenience of thousands of people who want to go from that State to Malaya and Singapore?

**Shri B. Shastri:** I have no information. I have not received any such representation. If any representation has come or if the Member will send it, I shall certainly look into it.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know, Sir, what stands in the way of fixing up regular schedules and giving notice to passengers as to the dates they have to go so that they may not come to Madras and stay there for several days?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** We can advise the shipping companies. It is not Government's concern, but if the Members wish we shall certainly advise the shipping companies.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** May I know for how many days actually the passengers are detained on account of shortage of the ships?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We do not have statistics about every single individual passenger. But as I said before, the passengers have to wait quite a considerable time.

**Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Government try to get this information and lay it on the Table—as regards actually how many days the passengers are detained there?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Another question may be put.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know, Sir, whether there are cases of corruption reported in these clearance offices at Madras from passengers?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** We have no information, but if the hon. Member can bring any specific cases to notice, we will look into them.

**Shri V. P. Nayar rose—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question hour is over.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** It is not yet over.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am not able to see. Anyhow there is no possible time for putting the question and giving the answer.

25 PSD.

### Short Notice Question and Answer

#### PRICE OF RAW JUTE

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the price of raw jute in India has fallen to Rs. 15 per maund at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recent joint agreed Communique issued by India and Pakistan about jute import from Pakistan has agitated the minds of jute growers in India and they may be forced to leave jute cultivation and take to cereal and other food-stuffs production;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of trade agreements, import of raw jute from Pakistan was neither regular nor continuous;

(d) whether Government have calculated the minimum cost of jute cultivation;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to fix minimum and maximum prices of jute in the near future;

(f) what steps Government propose to take to fill up the deficiency of jute target of seven lacs bales and to avert the decrease of jute production as apprehended; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to see that the jute growers get reasonable and fair price for their jute that will be grown in future?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes, in some and mofussil centres.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Yes, but in certain periods only.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Distribution of seeds at subsidised rates, grant of loans for purchase of seed, distribution of fertilisers, construction of retting tanks, setting up of seed multiplication farms, conducting sub-vention trials to impress upon the farmer the desirability of sowing seeds of improved strain, demonstrating the method of line-sowing to the cultivator, growing of an earlier crop of jute in addition to rice on winter paddy lands, adopting approved cultural and manurial practices which have been found to increase the yield considerably. Besides, an expert committee has been set up to suggest necessary measures for improving the quality of the jute

now grown in India and to concentrate the production in areas which are most suitable for growing high quality jute.

(g) Steps stated in reply to part (f) of the question are expected to result in higher yield per acre and lower cost of cultivation thereby increasing the remunerativeness of jute to the cultivator. Besides, Government will continue to watch the position carefully and such further action as appears feasible will be taken.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Sir, may I request the hon. Minister to read the answer to part (b) again?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Government have no information.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is aware that the Central Jute Committee has suggested any remedy about the current yields of jute industry and jute production?

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

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government have seen a report in the newspapers to the effect that Mr. Baghirat Kanoria, President of the Raw Jute Interests Committee has stated that Government should waste no time to consider the possibility of exporting the country's surplus production in order to allow for the recent Indo-Pak agreement and whether Government is also aware that the Central Jute Committee has recommended that the thinnest possible concentration of jute cultivation should at once be taken?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, I cannot say if the alleged suggestion made by a certain Chairman was before the Government but it is a fact that the point has been duly considered. It was decided that it would not be in the interests of the country to export any raw jute.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether it is a fact that some time ago the Ministry of Food and Agriculture recommended the fixation of minimum price for jute and also purchase of jute goods on States' own account?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There were several proposals made by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Sir, they have to take other factors into consideration. I am afraid this could not be accepted by them.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know, Sir, whether there is some proposal to provide facilities for agricultural finance to the cultivators?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir, certainly hon. Members of this House have brought to my notice the exorbitant interest charged from the cultivators for small advances. We will see what can be done in the matter although the matter rests with the States.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह बात मालूम है कि बस्तर और सरगुजा में भी अच्छा जूट हो सकता है ? क्या इस बाबत मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को लिखा था और यदि यह बात सही है तो क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ किया जा रहा है ?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I do not know how it arises out of the question, Sir. It is only the price of jute, and cultivation does not come in.

**Shri Barman:** Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Five Year Plan of producing 67 lakhs of bales of jute in India stands or has it been modified by the present agreement with Pakistan to import 25 lakh bales every year up to 3 years from now?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, according to the calculations of the Planning Commission, our requirements for the year 1955-56 will be of the order of 72 lakh bales and at the present rate we are attaining a target of about 47 lakhs of bales. So, there is sufficient room for the proposed import of jute.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Minister has got any recommendations from the West Bengal Government regarding the present low prices of raw jute in West Bengal?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the information here, Sir.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether the Government is going to restrict the cultivation of 'bimli' and 'masta' jute?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, we have appointed a Committee for this purpose and Government would be guided by the advice they give.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Is it a term of reference of the Committee just now mentioned by the hon. Minister that

they will look into the restrictions on low quality jute?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir. I think this would be one of the points on which they will give their opinion.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know what proportion of these 40 lakh bales of jute produced at present will be regarded as quality jute?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I am afraid I would have to ask for notice.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that Government have goaded the growers to grow more jute, is it not obligatory on the part of Government to guarantee economic price to the growers?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Government do feel concerned that adequate prices should be given. But circumstances arise where Government could not achieve the objective of giving the best possible prices.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### CATTLE EPIDEMICS

**\*1079. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a great number of domestic animals, specially cows and buffaloes are lost every year due to epidemics?

(b) What is the average of cow death per year during the last five years?

(c) What steps are being taken by Government to protect domestic animals from epidemics?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when available.

(c) The State Veterinary Departments, who are primarily responsible for combating epidemics amongst domestic animals are running a large number of Veterinary Hospitals and carrying out vaccinations. The Government of India are formulating a comprehensive programme for eradication of rinderpest which takes the heaviest toll amongst bovine cattle. As a precursor to this, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have sanctioned a five-year scheme for the

vaccination of cattle, sheep and goats under field conditions with lapinised vaccine and testing the nature and duration of the immunity produced by it under a variety of conditions met in the country.

##### IMPORT OF CHEESE

**\*1084. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cheese is manufactured mostly from sheep milk;

(b) the quantity and value of cheese annually imported and from which countries; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the total demand of the country for the same?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) No. Sheep milk is not used for the manufacture of cheese in India.

(b) The quantity and value of cheese imported into India during the last four years was as under:—

	Quantity (Cwts.)	Value (Rs.)
1949-50	12,250	19,27,960
1950-51	6,210	15,65,160
1951-52	9,770	21,17,720
1952-53 9 mths.	4,230	9,18,120

About 88 per cent. of the imports come from Australia and the rest mostly from European countries and New Zealand.

(c) Private enterprise has not so far come forward in this field as the conditions for competitive manufacture of cheese are unfavourable and Government also have found it unsafe to risk starting a Government venture for this purpose. There may be better prospects for this industry when dairying gets better established.

##### CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

**\*1087. Shrimati Shakuntala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation in Uttar Pradesh in the year 1952;

(b) whether any jungle clearance work has been undertaken by this Organisation in the Kumaon Hills; and