

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: We will not expect them to participate in the scheme, but they will be utilizing the benefits of the Central Health Education Bureau.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know where it is going to be established?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: It will be in Delhi.

SEA-FISHING

*2362. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) which of the new techniques propounded by the fishery experts of F.A.O. have been accepted and practised in Indian Waters; and

(b) whether there is still any foreign expert with the sea-fishing party of West Bengal?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Bull trawling under expert guidance has been accepted and practised in Indian waters.

(b) Yes, one Danish skipper.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any person from India has been trained abroad in these techniques?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know what sort of ships are being used in the Bay of Bengal for fishing?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I cannot give a complete description of the fish, but I think my hon. friend is familiar with the type of fish.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the type of ships and not the type of fish.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the description.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how far Government have proceeded

with the experts' advice that is available for the mechanisation of fishing boats?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Most of the recommendations made by the experts have been accepted, but we have not got the equipment. As soon as the equipment arrives, we will put them into practice.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that it is the Japanese method that is being practised in our waters, and, if so, whether we have trained sufficient number of Indians in the techniques?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Indians are not only working side by side, but also working in certain places independently also. I think we are utilising all the Indian knowledge in fishing.

COCONUT CULTIVATION

*2363. **Shri N. Rachiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in Coconuts;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to expand the acreage of Coconut gardens; and

(c) if so, from what year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) Work has already been undertaken in this direction.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know the countries from which import is made to India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Mainly it is I believe Ceylon, but there are some other countries also from which import is made.

Shri N. Rachiah: May I know the total acreage of coconut gardens in Mysore State?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figures.

Shri Basappa: May I know in which part of the country improved varieties of coconuts are grown and what efforts are made to develop those varieties?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: A special committee is already in charge of this work and I do not think that any particular part of India where coconuts grow fairly well is neglected.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: To part (b) of the question, the reply given is 'yes'. May I know how many additional acres of coconut gardens have been brought into cultivation by Government in recent years?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are no special gardens that have been planted, but the Government is encouraging the establishment of nurseries and giving them better plants. I have not got the figures of exact acreage added.

Shri N. L. Joshi: May I know the value of coconuts imported into the country?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid I cannot give this information, the question should in fact be addressed to the Minister for Commerce and Industry.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Government is aware that the fall in the price of coconuts in recent months has affected the cultivation, and whether any steps have been taken by Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am aware that price fluctuation affects not only the cultivators but cultivation also. We have tried to minimise imports with a view to encouraging better cultivation of coconuts.

PROCUREMENT OF RICE

*2364. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice procured from the different States during the last season (state-wise); and

(b) how this compares with the figures of the previous year?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement showing the procurement of rice in the different States during the crop year 1952-53 as compared with that during the year 1951-52 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 51.]

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know if in some States, like West Bengal, where procurement has been stopped, voluntary offers are being made for purchase?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, it is due to larger production.

Shri Bansal: May I know if the attention of the Government has been invited to certain press reports to the effect that huge quantities of rice procured in Orissa are lying uncovered at certain places, where it was procured by Government, and if proper care is not taken, it will all go waste?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kodwai): On account of the sudden increase in the procurement, there were large stocks that were lying in the open and there was some shortage of wagons also, but now the Railways have also made arrangements and storage arrangements have been made in all the States and we hope that before the monsoon breaks, all the rice will be cleared.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: From the statement I find that there is a considerable decrease in the procurement. Is it due to Government intending not to purchase, or due to offer not coming up?

Shri Kodwai: It is true that there was decrease in procurement because many States had abolished procurement, but if the figures for the current year are taken into consideration, in States where procurement is voluntary, it has increased, and in some States for want of accommodation for storage and other things, Government had to stop procurement in the middle of the season.