

(b) As the plans etc. are in the preliminary stages of consideration, it is not possible to say when the new terminal building will be ready.

#### Poisoning of Gir Lions

2515. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the lions of the Gir Forest are being poisoned by the cattle owners of adjoining villages by leaving poisoned meat at suitable places in the forest; and

(b) if so, what steps, if any, are being taken by the Central Government to stop this wanton destruction of their most precious and rare specimens of carnivora in the country?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) Such cases do occur; but they are extremely rare.

(b) The preservation of wild animals and birds is a State subject. Steps for the preservation of lions in the Gir have, therefore, been taken by the Government of Gujarat. That Government has declared lions in their State as completely protected against killing and have also introduced a scheme of monetary compensation to the owners of cattle whose animals are killed by the lions. This has been done to dissuade the cattle owners from poisoning the lions. Further, any case of suspected poisoning is fully investigated. The Central Government has also banned the export of lions, dead or alive, and products thereof from India.

#### Synthetic Fish Net Twine making Factory

2516. { **Shri Pottakkatt:**  
**Shri A. V. Raghavan:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to establish a synthetic fish net twine making factory near Ernakulam;

(b) if so, whether any foreign exchange has been sanctioned for the import of the net making plant; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved when the factory goes into commission?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) There is no such proposal under consideration with the Government of India.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### District Central Co-operative Banks

2517. **Shri Firodia:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state the number of 'A' and 'B' Class District Central Co-operative Banks which have been sanctioned additional limits by Reserve Bank as per recommendations of the Mehta Committee, Statewise?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** Two Banks in Maharashtra State and 5 banks in Madras State were sanctioned additional credit limits during 1961-62 and 7 banks in Maharashtra State and 6 banks in Madras State during 1962-63.

#### Soil Conservation in Catchment Areas

2518. **Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the Central Soil Conservation Schemes in catchment areas of river valley projects under progress in the country;

(b) whether any new schemes are going to be taken up during 1963-64; and

(c) if so, what?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) Centrally sponsored soil conservation schemes in the catchment areas of the following