

we have now 1,88,574 villages where the compost scheme is now working. The compost production has gone up from 2.10 lakhs to 106.04 lakhs. The distribution has also been fairly satisfactory. So, we have made very considerable progress.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, what is the number of conferences held by the Committee?

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

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the compost produced is distributed through co-operative agency or it is sold in the open market?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

REPORT OF EXPERT COMMITTEE OF MANURES AND FERTILISERS

*749. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Expert Committee of Manures and Fertilizers has been considered by Government; and

(b) the important recommendations of the Committee which have been given effect to and those which have not been accepted?

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

(b) A note containing the summary of the important recommendations made by the Committee is placed on the Table of the House. Recommendations 1 to 9 have been accepted by the Government of India. Nos. 1, 2, and 4 to 9 have been commended to the State Governments for further action and Nos. 3 and 6 are being given effect to by the Government of India. Recommendations 10 and 11 are still under examination.

STATEMENT

(1) *Full utilization of sources of indigenous manures—*

The Committee has recommended that the indigenous sources of organic manures such as cow dung, farm yard and stable manures, oil-cakes, bone-meal, green manures, compost and Nitre earth must be fully utilised.

(2) *Production in the country of chemical fertilisers—*

The Committee feels that there is considerable scope for increased use

of artificial fertilisers in this country. The results of fertiliser trials in India point to the beneficial effect of increased use particularly of nitrogenous fertilisers alone or preferably along with phosphatic fertilisers. The Committee has recommended that steps should be taken to increase the production and utilisation in the country of these fertilisers.

(3) *Use of the concentrated fertilisers—*

The Committee endorse the views of Dr. Stewart (1947) in popularising the use of concentrated fertilisers like Urea and of Ammonium Nitrate granules. The Committee recommends that the production of these in India may be given consideration. In their opinion, when manufactured on a large scale they will be found to be cheaper because of their high Nitrogen content.

(4) *Use of suitable combinations of artificial fertilisers—*

Use of suitable combinations of artificial fertilisers like sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate have given good yields. The Committee advocates their use wherever possible.

(5) *Use of suitable combinations of Organic and Inorganic fertilisers—*

In view of the slow availability of nutrients from bulky organic manures the Committee feels that suitable combinations of organic and inorganic fertilisers are the best especially in hotter regions where due to rapid oxidation the organic matter and nitrogen status of the soil are low. Use of farm yard manure or green manure with phosphatic fertilisers will go a long way in the improvement and maintenance of soil fertility.

(6) *Irrigation facilities—*

The Government's plans to bring as much land as possible under irrigation by constructing dams etc., should be given top priority. In the meantime efforts should be made to find out the best methods of manuring for lands which have no facilities for artificial irrigation.

(7) *Spread of Education amongst the farmers—*

Steps should be taken to spread education extensively amongst the farmers in the methods of proper soil and water conservation and land utilisation and in the best cultural, manurial and operational practices. Intensive propaganda should be carried out to make the farmers more manure minded than they appear to be at present.

(8) Experiment in the cultivator's fields—

Simple experiments should be conducted in the cultivators fields to test the best combinations of organic and inorganic fertilisers in different soil-types.

(9) Research—

Fundamental investigations should be carried out on various subjects in order to throw more light on the properties and manner of action of Manures and Fertilisers.

(10) Exports of oil seeds and bones—

Bones and oilseeds should not be allowed to be exported from the country. Bones should be either converted to bonemeal and superphosphate or crushed and composted with straw, sand and sulphur.

(11) Establishment of a Permanent Organisation—

A permanent organisation called the "Central Manure and Fertiliser Development Board" should be established and be entrusted with the task of preparing the plans and schemes for increasing the production and utilisation of indigenous manures and fertilisers and to forward those schemes for the consideration of the Central and the State Governments concerned. The Board according to the Committee should also review periodically the progress made in the matter of production and utilisation of indigenous manures and fertilisers. To enable the Board to work on a self-supporting basis the Committee has recommended that the Board may be guaranteed a steady income from the levy of a small cess on compost, sewage and sludge, bones etc.

Shri S. N. Das: In the summary of important recommendations it is stated that the Committee had recommended the establishment of a permanent organisation. May I know whether this organisation will be different from the one already working, or it will be the same one?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know what other organisation the hon. Member refers to. There will be only one organisation.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether this report has any recommendation for the dissemination of required scientific knowledge for the use of manures and fertilisers to the peasantry?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If the hon. Member wishes to know whether there will be any effort made in that direction, I would say 'Yes'.

Shri Raghavaiah: In the report submitted by the expert committee is

there any mention about distribution of fertilisers and manures through the Agriculture Department and not through private agencies, because of black-marketing indulged in by the latter?

Mr. Speaker: He need not draw these inferences; he may ask for information.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice of that question.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that the Government of India have stopped the subsidy to the States in regard to manure and fertilisers?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is economy being effected on this item, because now people are taking up to compost and more expenditure is not considered necessary.

Shri S. N. Das: In view of the fact that this committee was appointed on 7th January 1949, may I know the reasons for so much delay in the submission of the report?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not able to give any answer.

COCONUT PRODUCTION

***750. Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the percentage of shortfall in India's production of coconut with reference to her requirements?

(b) What were the amounts of annual production of coconut in India and its prices and what was the acreage under coconut cultivation year by year from 1947 to 1951?

(c) What are the names of places in different States where coconut is grown?

(d) What was the amount of copra and coconut oil imported in the years from 1947 to 1951 (year by year)?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) About 18 (eighteen) per cent.

(b) to (d). Four statements giving the required information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 34 (a).]

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the reply to part (c) of the question given in the Statement I find that there are three research stations in West Bengal—24 Parganas, Howrah and Midnapore. I am a member from Midnapore District. I find that there is no research station there: I also know that there is no research station at Howrah. May I know how such a mistake has crept in. May I also know whether in Kamrup and Darang there are such stations?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If there is any mistake, I am prepared to take the information from the hon. Member.