

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** May I know whether Government have enquired about the magnitude of the prevalence of such pests and diseases which has necessitated the expenditure already undertaken and also proposed to be undertaken on the facilities therefor?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** It is difficult to describe the exact degree of prevalence of these pests and diseases. But what we have undertaken is very very desirable because a small pest can probably damage acres worth of crops and plants. I have not got the figures of the expenditure that has been incurred but it is very much worthwhile doing so.

#### Fisheries

\*1199. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are having any scheme to improve the fisheries in Kerala State in view of the long coastal belt there;

(b) what is the total export of prawn and other fish from Kerala;

(c) how many fish farms are there in Kerala; and

(d) what are the prospects of developing inland fisheries in Kerala?

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

(b) The approximate annual exports are:

- i. dried prawn.. 4000 tons.
- ii. frozen prawn.. between 100 and 150 tons.
- iii. other fish .. not available for Kerala as such.

(c) Five brackish water fish farms.

(d) Very limited as compared to marine fisheries.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** In reply to part (a), the Minister said 'Yes'. May I know what are the schemes that are there for the improvement of the fisheries?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Schemes for the development of fisheries in Kerala are expected to cost Rs. 72.1 lakhs. This provision relates to a sum of Rs. 52.9 lakhs for schemes in the former Travancore-Cochin and a sum of Rs. 19.2 lakhs for the Malabar district which was formerly in the Madras State. For the provision of Rs. 52.9 lakhs, the schemes are as follows. There are 9 items. If you want me to give them, I will read.

**Mr. Speaker:** Nine places?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** They are 9 items.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister may read one.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Construction of fishermen's quarters along the sea-coast..

**Shri Velayudhan:** It would be better if we were given a statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister will please lay a statement on the Table and the hon. Members may study it.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether it is a fact that if the inland fisheries of Kerala State are properly developed, they can meet all the requirements of fish for Kerala so that the entire catch from marine sources could be exported with very great advantage to the people?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I would not go so far and I would not be so optimistic as my friend. But there are certainly possibilities and we are anxious to develop these possibilities.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether a cold storage has been recently opened in the State for preserving fish and, if so, whether it is under State auspices or is it given to some private individual?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I would ask or notice of the question.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether this scheme which the hon. Minister has in mind will have any special bias for relieving the condition of marine fishermen who, for 3 or 4 months because of monsoon difficulties, cannot go out into the sea and are absolutely handicapped in making both ends meet?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I can point out to my hon. friend that the sum of Rs. 19.2 lakhs which has been provided relates to the improvement of fishing tracks, assistance to fishermen co-operative societies, construction of model fish markets, development and exploitation of major reservoirs, supply of salt at subsidised prices to fish curers, training of personnel etc. All these items will go to help of fishermen.

#### Anti-corruption Organisation, Western Railway

\*1200. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 263 on the 27th February, 1956 and state the work so far done by the Anti-corruption Organisation of the Western Railway Zones?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 77].