

(b) whether the Indian Central Coconut Committee has rendered any help for increasing the Coconut yield in the areas;

(c) if not, what steps Government have taken for the purpose; and

(d) what is the condition of coir industry there?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shrimati Alva): (a) A scheme for raising paddy in 25 acres of land during the Second Five Year Plan has been drawn up. Steps are being taken to raise paddy cultivation in Kalpeni island and also to improve the existing paddy cultivation in Androth island. A provision of Rs. 4,100/- has been made in the plan for free distribution of paddy, ragi seeds etc. in the islands.

(b) Not so far.

(c) The Government of India have made a provision of Rs. 44,500/- under the Second Five Year Plan for the purpose of improving coconut cultivation. This is proposed to be achieved by the following methods:—

- (i) Organisation of demonstration plots in each island;
- (ii) Supply of seedlings at concessional rates and free supply of fertilisers;
- (iii) Eradication of coconut diseases through free supply of insecticides and fungicides;
- (iv) Extermination of rat nuisance through free distribution of rat poison; and
- (v) Supply of agricultural implements at subsidised rates.

(d) The coir industry in the islands is yet in an undeveloped state. They produce only coir yarn at present which is sold to Government in exchange for rice on a barter system. There are, however, possibilities of improving the coir industry on the islands. A provision of Rs. 3.50 lakhs has accordingly been made in plan for this purpose.

Commonwealth Naval Chiefs' Conference

1254. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report has been submitted by the representatives of India who attended the Conference of Commonwealth Naval Chiefs held recently; and

(b) if so, the nature of the report and decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes.

(b) It would not be in the public interest to divulge the subjects discussed. Such parts of the Report as are appropriate for any action have been under consideration.

Educational Development Programme in Punjab

1251. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state the amount allocated so far during the Second Five Year Plan period to Punjab for the educational development programme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): Against the total provision of Rs. 14.85 crores made for State Educational Development Programme of the Punjab, the following amounts were allocated from year to year:—

1956-57	..	Rs. 2.58 crores
1957-58	..	Rs. 1.83 crores
1958-59	..	Rs. 1.90 crores

The total expenditure incurred during 1956-57, however, amounted to Rs. 0.88 crores. The revised estimates show that an expenditure of Rs. 1.66 crores is likely to be incurred during the current financial year.