

were laid out on efficiency of different mulches in moisture conservation during the years 1961 and 1962 in the I.A.R.I. ESSO agricultural mulch also known as Petroleum mulch, was tried along with straw mulch and polythene mulch. The petroleum mulch developed by ESSO research company, U.S.A. was used as a liquid spray in cotton crop. The material was sprayed with a pump at the rate of 650 litres per hectare on either side of the cotton rows. Observations were recorded on soil moisture changes during the hot months of May and June.

The straw mulch conserved moisture to the extent of about 26 per cent, polythene mulch to the extent of about 39 per cent and petroleum mulch to the extent of about 14 per cent. There was no adverse effect of these materials on the yield or quality of the crop. Thus, the petroleum mulch was the least effective in moisture conservation in this trial.

(b) In view of the aforesaid results and with the present prices in India, it may not be feasible to recommend the use of petroleum mulch for large scale use.

#### Tuticorin Harbour Project

773. Shri Sohtyan:

Shri A. Anbushagan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Tuticorin Harbour Project;

(b) the schedule of work planned for 1966-67;

(c) the total estimated cost of the Project; and

(d) the amount spent so far?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) The progress of work is as follows:—

#### Shore Works

All the preliminary works such as Field Investigation, Land Acquisition approach road, internal roads, roads to quarries, railway siding to the quarries, 1st and 2nd stage of quar-

ries, temporary offices, first stage of water supply, sewerage, electrification, filling in low areas etc., have been completed.

#### Off-Shore Works

(i) Construction of North Breakwater.

The work on the construction of breakwater upto—5 metres is complete. Laying of core stones has been completed in the reach and laying of armour stones is in progress.

(ii) Construction of South Breakwater.

The work on the construction of breakwater upto—3 metres is complete. Work on the reach from—3m to—5m is in progress.

(iii) Approach Arm.

The work of reclaiming the approach arms from chart datum to—3m depth is in progress.

(b) A provision of Rs. 193.60 lakhs was provided in the Budget Estimates 1966-67 for continuing works relating to construction of breakwaters, roads, rail approach and other preliminary works and also for the purchase of construction equipment.

(c) According to the detailed Project Report, which is under consideration of Government, the Tuticorin Harbour Project is estimated to cost Rs. twenty-five crores.

(d) Rs. 5.22 crores.

#### Terminal at Dum Dum Airport

775. Dr. Karan Singh:

Shri G. S. Singh:

Shri S. K. Tapariah:

Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in developing the terminal at Dum Dum Air port; and

(b) how long it will take to develop the same?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b). A new international terminal complex at Dum Dum airport is being