

MR. SPEAKER: This should have formed part of the question which has not been sent long time back. The question is a very recent one.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: 24th October 1973 is not a very long time

MR. SPEAKER: I think the reply was sent to the question the same day. I am very sorry.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हू कि जिस तरह से वट्ट की मूदि के स्पेग्र पर खर्च करने के वान है इमी तरह से क्या उन लोगों के द्वारा भी यहाँ कहीं कीग्रान बगैरु के स्पेग्रन की वान है ?

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not require to be answered.

S. Q. Nos. 218 to 220—Absent.

I think we better take up the next business now. I am very happy that Shri Nair is here. I am going to repeat. Several hon. Members may have come back by this time.

S.Q. Nos. 201 to 206—Absent.

Subsidiary Company for Oil Palm Plantation in Kerala

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*207. SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for forming a Subsidiary Company for Oil Palm plantation in Kerala with Central assistance;

(b) whether there was a Committee to study the above proposal and if so, their recommendations; and

(c) Government's decision on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(a) to (c). The State Government of Kerala have taken up the development of oil palm plantation in the Yeroor Reserve Forest in Quilon District through the Kerala Plantation Corporation Ltd.—a State Undertaking. Sometime back, the State Government represented that the project might be treated as Central Sector Project. This was examined in an inter-departmental meeting held in the Planning Commission, wherein it was suggested that the Oil Palm Plantation in Kerala might continue to be with the Kerala Plantation Corporation but the requisite assistance for further developing the plantations might be provide by the Centre. The Planning Commission accordingly desired that the possibility of providing this assistance in the form of Central participation in the equity capital of the Corporation or formation of a separate subsidiary under the Corporation be explored by the Ministry of Agriculture with the Government of Kerala. Some further discussions have since been held with the State Government and the details are being worked out.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: May I know what assistance the Union Government are going to give to the State Government in this respect, whether it would be participation in equity share or formation of a subsidiary company?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: In the Fifth Five Year Plan we have made a provision of Rs. 1 crore. Of course, our suggestion was to have a subsidiary, but all these matters would be considered in detail when the specific proposal is examined, but the Centre would like to assist the Kerala Government to the tune of Rs. 1 crore, and specific provision has been made in the plan itself. But both these proposals namely subsidiary or equity participation are under consideration.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: How long has this consideration been

going on, and how long will it continue before Government would take a decision?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As far as the programme is concerned, it is being implemented, and its progress has not been withheld, though the Kerala Government have some financial difficulties. But we shall settle with the Kerala Government and see that the programme is not adversely affected.

श्री मधु लिमये : मंत्री महोदय एक कम्पनी में पूँजी लगान की बात कर रहे हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि वह नैल के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य और इसके इन्वेंचर के बारे में भी तफ़्सील से बताना ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: This palm oil is mainly used as industrial oil and is mainly used for soap manufacture. Now, we are trying to introduce these plantations in our country, and we find that certain parts of the country including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are very suitable for developing oil palm plantation, and the per hectare production of oil from oil palm plantation is the highest compared to groundnut or any other oilseed which we have in our country.

SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: In view of the fact that the Kerala plantation Corporation has already taken up this oil palm plantation, will Government kindly give them subsidy instead of waiting to form a new corporation?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I have mentioned that we would like to help them, because the State corporation has already undertaken this work, and they have actually been implementing this programme for the last two years, but this programme has to be carried forward; there has been some difficulty of seed also, and we have to import seed from other countries. But this is a State pro-

gramme, and therefore, I do not think subsidy will meet the requirements of the situation. What we contemplate is either equity participation or giving a loan to the State Government or making the amount available to the State Government in some other form.

SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that foreign exchange, which is highly necessary for oil palm plantation, is not being allowed according to their request, and if so, whether Government will consider the allotment of foreign exchange as requested by this corporation without further delay?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I do not think that the availability of foreign exchange is presenting any problem, but I shall check up. If any request from the Kerala State corporation is pending in regard to this, we shall see that adequate foreign exchange is made available for the programme because this is an accepted part of the programme of development of the oil economy of the country as a whole.

SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD: In view of the acute shortage of edible oil in the country, is there any proposal to undertake research to explore the possibility of making this oil edible?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: In fact, the process is used in the vanaspati industry. Last year when the prices were very low, we tried to import some oil from outside. There is no difficulty in making it edible because the process is well-known. No research is necessary, the process is well-established.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: In view of the experience in Kerala, has a similar proposal been received from West Bengal also? If so, what is Government's reaction to it?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Only certain regions of the country, that is, upto 15 degrees north of the

equator, are found suitable for this. I do not think Bengal comes within this area, but the Andaman and Nicobar islands do.

MR. SPEAKER: The question was not whether the oil is edible or not. It was concerning a proposal for forming a subsidiary company. Whether the company is formed or not, oil is still being discussed. If they are not directly relevant, there should be some remote relevance to justify such questions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It is for you to correct us.

MR. SPEAKER: The question hour is over.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Shri H. M. Patel very much wanted to authorise me to ask question No. 213. But unfortunately I could not meet him.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He said that if the Professor was absent, I should be present.

MR. SPEAKER: That may be so. But there should be some indication of it in the agenda also; some intimation should have been given to me. If that was done, I would have loved to allow it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Recommendation of Working Group on Ship Building Yard at Haldia

*201. **SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Working Group consisting of experts have recommended the construction of a Ship-building Yard at Haldia; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suggestions have been received from several quarters including various maritime State Governments for setting up shipyards in their states. A Techno-Economic Working Group has therefore been set up to evaluate both technically and economically, various sites proposed by the State Governments for setting up shipyards and to indicate the types and sizes, which can with advantage be constructed at the sites recommended. A final decision will be taken after the report of the Techno-Economic Group is received.

Setting up of Research Projects by I.C.M.R.

*202. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research will set up over 60 Research Projects in Fundamental and Applied aspects of reproductive biology in various University Faculties in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the main features of the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Medical Research has sanctioned over 60 research projects in this field.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.