

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I said which is not in-consistent with law. I may tell the hon. Member that it is Regulation and Abolition Act. So far as the regulatory powers of the government are concerned we will fully utilise these. We will see that they get wages as prescribed under the law. We will see that they get welfare measures as provided by law. So far as their permanent employment is concerned I cannot make any assurance which will be contrary to law.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: The answer given by the hon. Minister for modernisation of IISCO is that the existing technology is obsolete but whatever Japan International Corporation has prepared the feasibility report now that technology is also obsolete. I also want to know what is the position of the pilot plant tests based on DR & KR process and whether the Minister will consider to request Japan International Corporation to give DR technology by which they are producing 4 million tonnes of steel which will require non-coking coal?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I may tell the hon. Member that so far as the question of technology is concerned, there will be transfer of the latest feasible technology that is available in Japan or in the world. But what is new today will become old tomorrow. So nothing is new everyday. I can assure the hon. Member about the DPR or the engineering studies report that is under progress at this time but I cannot firmly commit at this time as to what will be the final report of the company which is looking into this at this stage.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: It is not only in IISCO but also in Railways and other public sector undertaking there are a number of contract labourers. In Railways they are there for the last 10 years whereas in NTC mills they are there for the last 8 years. So while modernising these public sector undertakings, Government is going to face this problem everywhere. Modernisation is needed but I want to know whether Government is going to issue any broad guidelines for protecting the interests of these 21 lakh

workers and also whether they will be adjusted. There are not only contract and casual workers. They are like permanent workers. They cannot be used as a guinea-pig anywhere. So, modernisation is needed. I would like to know whether the Government is going to issue any guidelines for adjustment of all the workers.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already done it. There is nothing new to add.

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR: I must tell the hon. Member that there are certain vested interests in the country who do not want our country to prosper and progress. Some vested interests are such that they don't want to modernise the steel plants. I have given assurance all along that no regular employee of the steel plants will get retrenched.

There are some people who say that modernisation is going to lead to retrenchment of employees. I emphasise this thing that no retrenchment of regular employees is going to take place. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is not going to be a part of an irregular thing.

Coconut Plantations In Non-coconut Growing States

*24. **SHRI S.M. GURADDI:**
SHRI T.V. CHAN-
DRASHEKHARAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coconut Development Board has chalked out a plan to take up coconut plantations in non-coconut growing States;

(b) whether the Board has decided to popularise coconut cultivation in Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a). The Coconut Development Board has undertaken a Scheme, "Expansion of Area Under Coconut", in various States including non-coconut growing States.

(b) and (c). "Expansion of Area under Coconut" Scheme has been undertaken in Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. In addition to the above scheme, the Board has also undertaken the following Schemes:-

- (i) Coconut Plantation on Canal Embankment in Orissa;
- (ii) Production & Distribution of T x D Hybrid Seedlings in Orissa;
- (iii) Establishment of Hybrid seed Gardens for production of D x T Hybrids in Orissa; and
- (iv) Establishment of Demonstration-cum-Seed Production Farms in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Sir, may I know why has the Government not considered expansion of programme in coconut cultivation in the States like Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu where coconut production has a supreme position instead of going to the States where there is no coconut cultivation uptill now? Whether the expenditure incurred in these States will be much more than it would have been had the expansion programme in coconut cultivation been taken in these States?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, the question mainly relates to Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, I have given the details about these three States.

So far as the major coconut growing States are concerned, there are 14 States

and 2 Union Territories. The schemes are already in progress there and sufficient allocation has been made in those States.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: I would like to know whether there are better chances of increasing the area under cultivation especially in Karnataka. Whether it is a fact that yield per plant in Karnataka is much more than in any other State?

May I also know whether the Board has proposed to set up a coconut research centre in Karnataka with the help of the World Bank?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: The area under coconut production in the country at present is 1.2 million hectares and the total production is 6,404 million nuts. Therefore, the area is already there. We are making intensive cultivation possible.

So far as Karnataka is concerned, there is already one research centre in Kasargod in Kerala. We have got one Central Plantation Crop Research Institute there. We have also got 15 sub-stations under all-India coordinated research projects on palms. Therefore, there is no proposal at present to establish any separate one.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: I want to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government about a tree belonging to a sitting MP, Mr. Ramulu, yielding 5000 fruits and that the people are going in a queue to see that particular tree. Is the hon. Minister interested in seeing that tree and if so, what is the technology which is adopted so that the same technology can be extended to other farms also?

MR. SPEAKER: Do I hear correctly? Is it 5000?

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Yes, Sir. It is 5000. You can come and see.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: The yield per hectare is 5200 nuts. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will take adequate steps to provide due representation to States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, of course standing next to Kerala, in the Coconut Development Board and extend the activities of this Board in these States to increase the production and take care of the marketing facilities properly so that the coconut growers get maximum justice and fair price for their produce.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: All steps have been taken in these States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and sufficient allocation have been made by the Coconut Development Board. These States are well represented in the Board. About marketing there was marketing intervention once by the State agency NAFED but after that there was no need for intervention.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: It is mainly confined to Kerala but not for other States.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Kerala is the State which has got 55 percent of the coconuts.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Our economy depends exclusively on coconuts. You are surprised to know of one tree yielding 5000 nuts. You may be further surprised to know of a single tree with two or three heads in Lakshadweep yielding very well. I want to show you also but you have not accepted my invitation.

MR. SPEAKER: I will accompany you.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Especially in the coastal areas, the root disease is the major disease. Therefore, exclusively we are supplying the seedlings from Lakshadweep. I do not mind his taking the seedlings to either Bihar or Madhya Pradesh or anywhere. The best seedling and the best variety of coconut comes from Lakshadweep. I want to know

whether he has got any programme to have a central team meant for production farms to be exclusively located in Lakshadweep.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Member.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In Lakshadweep, the number of coconuts are more than the number of human beings.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: He is factually correct.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: In Lakshadweep, the total area under this coconut crop, in 1986-87, as per the figures, is 2.8 thousand hectares and the production is about 24.6 million nuts. There was marketing intervention also done in Lakshadweep in 1985-86. So far as research centre is concerned, I do not think that there is any proposal at present. If there is need and, if money is available we can consider it.

Revised Pay Scales for Agricultural Scientists

*25. **SHRI P.M. SAYEED†:**
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientists working in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have not been granted the revised pay scales so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the new scales would be made applicable with retrospective effect; and

(d) the approximate time by which the revised scales would be granted to the scientists?