

RECONSTITUTION OF FOOD ZONES

*39. { SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE:†
SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to reconstitute the existing food zones is under active consideration of the Government of India;

(b) which of the existing zones are likely to be affected under the reconstituted scheme;

(c) whether the Concerned States have been consulted in this matter; and

(d) what special advantages are expected to accrue under the reconstituted scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) to (d). The question whether it would be advisable to have each State a separate zone or to join contiguous surplus and deficit States to form bigger zones was discussed with the Chief Minister and/or Food Ministers of the States at the last meeting of the National Development Council in September, 1959. There was divergence of opinion and no final decision could be taken. The consensus of opinion was that the matter should be examined further in the light of the discussion and separate consultations held with the State Governments if necessary. It was later decided not to split the Southern Rice Zone comprising the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and Kerala. The question whether a bigger rice zone comprising the States of Orissa and West Bengal should be formed has also been discussed with the two State Governments, but a final decision has not so far been taken. The creation of a composite rice zone comprising the States of Orissa and West Bengal will enable

the cultivator in Orissa to secure a better price for his produce and, by bringing down the market prices of rice in West Bengal, will also benefit the consumer in West Bengal.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: How long will it take for the Government to arrive at a final decision?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As I have already said, no final decision has been taken since various aspects have to be taken into consideration. A decision will be arrived at shortly.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether there has been any proposal from the Bombay Government to reconstitute a zone comprising Madhya Pradesh and Bombay State so far as wheat and rice zones are concerned?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Yes, you see the deficit provinces will always demand such a zone to be formed and Bombay has been having such things. But it takes two or more than two to make a zone and therefore the other State's opinion also has to be taken into consideration.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether there is any opposition from the Madhya Pradesh Government to reconstitute such a zone?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Yes, very much so.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether with regard to the proposed zone comprising West Bengal and Orissa, certain difficulties have arisen and whether it is a fact that the Orissa State Government has made serious objections to certain aspects of the proposal?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: If the Orissa State Government makes any objections surely no zone will be formed. But our policy is such that it is not

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. D. Khobaragade.

going to be done without the concurrence of the State Governments concerned.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, my question has not been answered. I wanted to know whether the Government of Orissa has made any objection. The answer will be either "Yes" or "No." If the answer is "Yes", what is the nature of their objection?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: No objection at all. In fact, the Orissa Government is coming nearer and nearer.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I know whether any objections were received by the Government of India from the Government of Orissa?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: I just now said in reply to the question of the hon. Member over there, that there are no objections. On the contrary, there has been a constructive attitude of coming nearer.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: What is this constructive attitude and how will it affect the consumers in Orissa?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The constructive attitude is to come near, and it will surely have a beneficial effect on the consumers in Orissa.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: The hon. Minister stated just now that States cannot be constituted into a zone unless the States concerned agree. Is it a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh have more than once brought to the notice of the Central Government that it is not in the best interest either of Andhra Pradesh or of Kerala to have that zone there?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The Government of India looks to the interests of India and not of any particular State only.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: If separate States are being consulted, may I know the opinion of the Madras Government on this issue?

[†]The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lavji Lakhamshi.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The Madras Government has been very cooperative indeed.

*40. [The questioner (Shri M. Basavapunnaiah) was absent. For answer, vide col. 199 infra.]

*41. and 42. [The questioner (Shri V. K. Dhage) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 199—201 infra.]

DEVELOPMENT OF MANGALORE PORT

*43. { SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI:
SHRI LAVJI LAKHAMSHI:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of Mr. Posthuma's report on the development of Mangalore Port; and

(b) what action Government have taken on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Shri Posthuma recommended that fresh traffic fore-cast should be prepared and if this showed that the traffic was likely to be of the order of 700,000 tons of general cargo per year within some years, the construction of a deep draft port for the accommodation of ships of about 10,000 tons dead weight would be economically justified.

He also examined three alternative sites under consideration by Indian Experts, viz:—

(1) In the estuary of Netravati river,