

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 5th December 1957

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF JUTE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*298. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the Jute Enquiry Committee, and if so, by what time they are likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): The matter is still under consideration in consultation with the State Governments and Central Government authorities concerned.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the report of this Jute Enquiry Committee has differed from or has endorsed the recommendations of the Jute Enquiry Commission appointed in 1954?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: This particular Committee to which the hon. Member has referred was appointed in March 1957, and it submitted its report in July 1957. Sir, the report is of a very comprehensive nature touching on all aspects of the jute industry with regard to attainment of self-sufficiency and also quality standards, and it is necessary that these recommendations are examined by the State Governments and also by the Ministries of the Central Government.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that a Jute Enquiry Commission was also appointed in the year 1954, and that Commission also submitted its report, and also whether these two reports differ entirely, and that is the reason why

the Government has not come to any conclusion, or whether one is complementary to the other.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, it is not correct. One is complementary to the other. We are taking necessary steps to attain self-sufficiency, and the total production of jute that is necessary for self-sufficiency is 80 lakh bales. Now, at the end of the First Five Year Plan we had 41.97 lakh bales, and the production in the first year of the Second Plan was 42.21 lakh bales. Sir, financial assistance of a substantial nature is being given to various jute-growing States for the development of jute industries.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Would the hon. Minister be able to indicate the steps that are being taken to implement the recommendations for being self-sufficient and for giving more fertiliser, better seed and tank water?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, the opinion of the Committee is that it is not possible to attain self-sufficiency by 1960-61. We will be able to reach only a target of 55 lakh bales, and some quantity will certainly have to be imported. Now, the import is about 14 to 15 lakh bales from Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: May I know, Sir, how much jute we have imported from Pakistan during the last year?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Fourteen to fifteen lakh bales.

NATIONAL PARKS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE IN UNION TERRITORIES

*299. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of national parks that have been set up by Government

in the Union Territories for the preservation of wild life; and

(b) whether a week for the preservation of wild life is celebrated every year and if so, what amount is given by the Government to States for such celebrations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Nil.

(b) Yes, Sir. But no funds are allotted to the States for the purpose.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Government has got any funds for this purpose?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Yes. The Government of India gives a grant to the extent of Rs. 15,000 to the Indian Board of Wild Life, and also the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting gives about Rs. 5,000 for publicity.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether any grant is given to the State Governments to propagate this 'week' and construct national parks?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The Board utilises this fund which is set apart, namely, Rs. 15,000 for conducting the propaganda work and also for spreading of educative literature. No special grants are being given to the State Governments.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, how many national parks have been developed till now?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, the question refers to Union Territories, and I have already answered that there is no national park in the Union Territories. There was a proposal to have one about 170 miles . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether there are uniform laws for the preservation of wild life throughout the States or each State is enacting its own laws for the preservation of wild life?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: To have a uniform law, is under consideration.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Are the Government aware that the races of Rhinos amongst wild animals and Bustards amongst game birds are facing extinction? If so, what steps do the Government proposes to take to stop it?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, we are trying to do everything in the matter. Although there are no national parks in the Union Territories, we have three national parks, one in U.P., another in M.P. and the third in Bihar, and through these national parks we are trying to do something in the direction of the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Where is the national park situated in Bihar?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: At Hazaribagh.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, where the Government proposes to have its first national park in the Union Territories?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There is a proposal to have one about five miles from Simla—converting a game sanctuary into a national park.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: 'Sir, the hon. Minister has said that everything is being done about the preservation of Rhinos. May I know whether it is proposed to transport Rhinos from Assam to any of those national parks that he has mentioned?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I require notice.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, whether these steps for the preservation of wild life include the banning of export of monkeys abroad . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Mitra, we are having a Resolution on that subject tomorrow. Next question.

***300 and *301.** (For answers, vide cols. 1676-77 infra.)

RAILWAY LAND LEASED OUT FOR CULTIVATION OF FOODGRAINS

***302. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of fallow railway lands so far leased out for cultivation of foodgrains; and

(b) what is the amount of rent realised from such lands during the last five years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) The total area of railway lands so far licensed out is approximately 29628 acres.

(b) The rent realised for such lands during the last five years is approximately Rs. 4,00,504. This does not include any rent realised by Western and North Eastern Railways except in Bihar state by the latter.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know, Sir, whether these fallow lands have been leased out to the landless agricultural workers or to those owners who have got their lands adjacent to the railway land?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, normally the policy that is followed by the Railways is to hand over all these surplus lands to the State Governments, and we leave it to the discretion of the State Governments to give them to anybody they like.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know, Sir, whether any of the lands

have been given to the low-paid railway workers who cultivate lands?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, again as a matter of policy, we discourage railway employees from taking to cultivation, because we consider railway duties to be more important than cultivation.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the fallow land belonging to the Southern Railway leased out to the railway employees during the Grow-More-Food Campaign period was taken back by the Railways from those employees and there was a clamour from the side of the employees to get back their land?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I thought I had replied to that question. We want the railway employees to concentrate their attention on the proper running of railways and not on cultivation of land. But, Sir, there is no objection to railway employees having small patches for kitchen-gardening etc.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Sir, those lands were leased out to the railway employees for cultivation. They have cultivated those lands for the last 7 or 8 years. After that the Railway authorities had taken back those lands. Now the railway employees demand those lands back for cultivation, of course, on lease. Will the Railway authorities be prepared to lease out those lands to them again for cultivation?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, we do not propose to allow the railway employees to take up extensive cultivation.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: It is not the railway employees who cultivate. It is their families who cultivate.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: May I know, Sir, whether there are any arrears of the lease amount due from those people?