

PROF. G. RANGA : Is the Ramamurthy Committee also charged with the task of visiting Rayalaseema which was referred to in the earlier question and if so, was any difficulty experienced in this Committee in visiting Rayalaseema first or even at present ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think the priority is left to the Committee.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Has any amount been actually given out of the 50% allotment ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Is the Government aware that the Prime Minister announced that a high-power Committee would be appointed to go into this matter and is this Committee consisting of Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries supposed to be the High-Power Committee ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Is any maximum amount to be paid by the Centre to the Mysore State fixed by the Central Government ? How much is the Centre ready to pay to the State on account of the 50% allotment ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It will depend upon the proposals of the Mysore Government. No maximum has been fixed.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Is the Government aware that famine conditions almost similar to Rayalaseema exist in the Tamil parts in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Ramnad and will the Government consider the advisability of asking the Commission to visit these areas also and make a recommendation ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : For the present the idea is to confine it to Mysore and Rayalaseema but if similar circumstances are brought to the notice of Government, Government will consider it.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Is the Government aware that the Chief Minister of Madras has made it clear on more than one occasion that famine conditions exist in so many parts of Tamilnad also ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am not aware.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Will the Government consider the desirability of including some non-officials also who know the area, and who will be prepared to come boldly and make recommendations to Government, instead of having only officials of the Department sent over there ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : The Committee will not depend upon its own members, but will certainly get advice and suggestions from local leaders also.

INDIAN CENTRAL COCOANUT COMMITTEE

*113. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Central Coconut Committee has been financing certain coconut nurseries ;

(b) whether Government are aware that there are large coconut plantations in Tumkur, Chitaldrug and Bangalore Districts in the Mysore State ;

(c) whether any nurseries in those districts are financed by the said Committee ; and

(d) whether coir comes within the purview of the said Committee ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) The Committee is at present financing twenty-nine coconut nurseries.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. There is at present one nursery situated at Hebbal near Bangalore which is financed by the Committee.

(d) No.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is it not a fact that the Committee made the recommendation to Government that coir too should come within its purview ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I have not got all the recommendations.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Why is not coir included ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : There were differences of opinion on the question. This was discussed the other day on the floor of this House.

LAND UNDER CULTIVATION

* 114. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total acreage of land actually under cultivation in India ;

(b) what is the total acreage of land that can be but has not been brought under cultivation ;

(c) how much of the acreage of land under cultivation is now being utilised for (i) food crops, (ii) cotton, (iii) jute, (iv) sugarcane, (v) tea and coffee, (vi) oilseeds ; and

(d) what is the total acreage of forests in India ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) to (d). A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

	(Thousand acres)
(a) Land actually under cultivation 266,372 (Net area sown).	
(b) Land that can be brought under cultivation but has not been so	11,554

brought excluding current fallows i.e., area definitely known to be culturable.

(c) Gross area sown with all crops	301,886
(i) Food crops	244,680
(ii) Cotton	11,458
(iii) Jute	1,278
(iv) Sugarcane	3,702
(v) Tea	807
(vi) Coffee	219
(vii) Oilseeds	24,275
(d) Area under forests	147,705

NOTES—(a) *Net area sown with crops*.—Net geographical area under the crops and orchards.

(b) *Area definitely known to be culturable*.—Includes (1) lands which have once been cultivated but were later abandoned due to one reason or the other, and (2) areas definitely known to be cultivable, provided both these types of lands can be reclaimed at a reasonable cost and with a reasonable effort.

(c) *Gross area sown with crops*.—Includes area under crops plus areas sown with crops more than once during the year.

(d) *Food crops*.—Include data for all food-grains, condiments and spices, fruits and vegetables and other miscellaneous food crops.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : In the statement we have been given the information that the land that can be brought under cultivation but has not been so brought excluding current fallows, i.e., area definitely known to be culturable is 1,15,54,000 acres. May I know what attempts are being made by Government to bring the maximum acreage under cultivation ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : There are various schemes for the reclamation of land which are undertaken both by the States and also by the Central Government.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether there are any laws in any State to transfer uncultivated land for the purpose of cultivation, either to private individuals or to co-operatives ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I cannot go into all the details of the laws, but I believe there are such laws.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : What amount of foodgrains has been lost as a result of the diversion of land from foodgrain cultivation to the cultivation of cotton and jute during the last year ?