

(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 ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I have given the reply to that question in the other House. So far as cotton is concerned, the highest estimate that has been made is about 3 lakh tons of foodgrains—that is the absolute maximum. The actual figure cannot be arrived at unless there is a field-to-field survey. So far as jute is concerned, proportionately less foodgrains have been lost. We have relied more upon double cropping and on areas not fit for foodgrain cultivation.

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SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Has this estimate been arrived at as a result of any scientific survey or by random sampling or is it the Revenue Department's guess ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : We have tried to base the estimate on facts as far as possible.

DR. P. C. MITRA : What is the actual acreage under cultivation in Bihar ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think the statement contains this information.

DR. P. C. MITRA : What is the acreage under food crops and how much of land is under sugarcane and jute in Bihar ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It is all in the statement.

PROF. G. RANGA : Is it not a fact that while land is diverted for growing jute to the detriment of foodgrain production, there is no market today for the jute as the millers are not able to buy the jute that is produced in the land ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : That is not due to the over-production of jute. There are very many factors which are affecting not only such crops as jute but also other products as cotton and other things where there is a slump in the market.

PROF. G. RANGA : I am not referring to the slump and the fall in price

which has happened in the case of cotton. In the case of jute there are no purchasers today and the millers are not able to purchase the jute, for instance the Nadia jute.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : What is the information the hon. Member wants ?

SHRI B. M. GUPTE : In reply to a question on the floor of the House last week it was stated that the area under forests is 93 million acres ; and now in the statement just supplied by the hon. Minister the area under forests is given as 147 million acres. Can the hon. Minister please explain this difference ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I require notice, Sir.

SHRI BASAPPA SHETTY : Are Government aware that food crops do not grow on coffee land which is hilly ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes, we are aware of that.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Is the Government trying to make some uncultivable land from the forests in India into cultivable land ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I don't think we would be doing such a foolish thing.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Why foolish ? There are some lands under forest in India which are called forests and can be made cultivable.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : But the hon. Member at first said "uncultivable land".

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : No, some of the lands now included under the head "forests" can be made cultivable.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : If it is possible, that will be done.

DR. R. B. GOUR : May I know from the Government how much total

land has been diverted for jute and cotton and how much of it was already under food crops and how much was fallow land ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : As I have already said the land under cotton is estimated at 3.45 lakh acres. That is the maximum estimate of the land diverted from food crops to cotton. So far as jute is concerned, I do not have the figures.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : What is the total acreage of reserved forests in India ? And have the Government any schemes to release any part of it for cultivation ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It has been stated here in the statement and I have no information beyond what is contained here.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Would it not be against the policy of the Government to deforest these reserved forests and make the land cultivable and will it not reduce the fuel and timber available in the country ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : That is a suggestion for action, more or less.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS BY THE UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS AND CHINA

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

(a) what is the quantity of wheat and rice supplied to India by the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and China, respectively, during the current year ; and

(b) whether it was on the basis of barter or cash payment ; if on the latter what were the rates per ton in rupees ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) Up to 26th November 1952, about 1,09,800

metric tons of rice were imported from China during the current year.

No wheat has been supplied by U. S. S. R. during this year.

(b) Purchase of rice from China is against cash payment. In the public interest it is not desirable to disclose the purchase price of rice from China.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether the rates charged for the rice by China are higher or lower than those charged by other countries ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I am afraid I cannot disclose this information without jeopardising the public interest.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it a fact that the U. S. S. R. and China have offered us more foodgrains and that we are taking from them less ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Not to my knowledge. We are not refusing any cheaper food we need from any part of the world.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether the imported food from Russia and China is delivered to us in their own ships or in foreign ships ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : As regards the food from China, we always charter ships through our High Commissioner at London, for the import from the Baltics ; as for Russia I want notice.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : From Russia have there been any food gifts ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Food gifts are not included here.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : What is the food gift from Russia ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : If that question is allowed, I will give the answer.