

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I replied with reference to the programme of extension and strengthening of the runway, which we have immediately on hand. On that I respectfully maintain that the information given by me is not wrong because we propose to extend it to 6000 feet and strengthen it at a cost of Rs. 33.29 lakhs, and the building does not come in between. But if what the Member perhaps means is about extending it to 10,500 feet making it good enough to hold or entertain a Boeing or a Caravelle, that programme we do not have in hand yet and in the near future also I cannot extend any hope that we are going to have it. But in case the LIC building at any time comes in between in that particular manner, the only alternative would be to shift the airport to some other place. I do not know whether it has been technologically examined. But, as I said, in the near future we do not have any proposal for extending the Boeing service to Trivandrum.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I know whether Government have any plans for constructing an airport at Andheri in Maharashtra State?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: A separate question may be put about it.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: Is the Government thinking of this matter as of urgency in the larger background of the emergency or is it being treated as a routine matter?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: So far as the emergency is concerned, I think the construction of a jet airport at Trivandrum may not still come up there. But for the normal programme of entertaining Viscounts and Friendships it is, of course, necessary and we are going it all possible trials.

MANUFACTURE OF CHEAP FISH-POWDER

*508. SHRI M. AJMAL KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by Government to promote the manufacture of cheap fish-powder as a subsidiary human diet; and

(b) if so, to what use the non-edible parts of fish, such as scales, intestines etc. are put?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN):

(a) and (b). Preparation of fish meal for human consumption has been tried in laboratories but large scale manufacture of the same cannot be attempted until consumer preference is developed and manufacture at an economic price becomes possible.

SHRI M. AJMAL KHAN: So far as I know consumer preference has already been developed. I was told by the Ministry of Food that in America fish-meal is being sold at Rs. 350 per ton, that is, 8 annas per seer. People eat it. How do you say that it is not yet developed?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The question is that the consumer preference has to be developed in our country.

SHRI M. AJMAL KHAN: In our country we eat fish and why should we not be able to eat fish-meal?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: This is fish-powder or fish-meal for human consumption. It has got certain techniques. That means deodorization and other technical skills which are necessary. The experiments which are continuing in our Central Institute of Fish Technology at Cochin are a trade secret.

PROF. B. N. PRASAD: Having myself seen the factory where fish-powder is prepared and having talked with the Director of that Institute . . .

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: Where?

PROF. B. N. PRASAD: Please let me proceed first . . . and having ask-

ed the Director if he had introduced also some way with the help of some good cook to make use of that powder, I know the difficulty is on account of the deficiency on the part of the producer of the fish powder. If the Institute could also take the help of a connoisseur cook to make certain kinds of preparations which might be free from that odour, does he not think that then it will become quite popular?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM When the fish-meal powder will be produced and will be acceptable to the consumer it will have to be mixed with atta and used for set purposes. Then the vegetarian and non-vegetarian problem will arise. That is why we said that the consumer preference will have to be built up here. I will be interested in propagating this because it will supply the protein factor which is not so much present in ordinary atta and other things. But, first of all we should prepare odourless fish-meal and also propagate that it is good enough for human consumption and that, whether vegetarian or non-vegetarian, they could take it.

SHRI OM MEHTA: May I know, Sir, what is being done at present to better the supply position of fish and also to get fish from the sea which is a very great source of fish?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN. Concerning the supply of fish we have got a number of schemes particularly mechanisation of fishing crafts all over the country, and augmenting fish supply of the country by mechanisation.

SHRI M AJMAL KHAN A number of boats were sent for several years ago when Mr Rafi Ahmad Kidwai was the Food Minister. I asked him to take out fish from the sea by deep sea fishing. And through this method million of tonnes of fish could be procured. We could get enough food for the country. We are every day asking . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put question.

SHRI M AJMAL KHAN. My question is just as the Americans do, I want fish powder.

MR CHAIRMAN This is not a Question.

SHRI M AJMAL KHAN There is no question of vegetarianism.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI M AJMAL KHAN The question is that we want odour. We do not want deodorization.

SHRI M N GOVINDAN NAIR. May I know, Sir, whether the Government have worked out the economy of using fish as fodder for poultry?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM That is being done.

SHRI N SRI RAMA REDDY May I know, Sir, whether we have enough of surplus fish at all to convert it into powder in the first place?

SHRI D R CHAVAN That itself will have to be augmented if the production of fish-meal for human consumption is to be resorted to.

DR SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA: May I know, Sir, what steps Government is taking so that people get used to this fish-powder?

SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM First of all, as was given in the main answer, we have produced this fish-powder for human consumption only at laboratory level and it is quite good for being consumed. That is one aspect of it. Therefore, the means to popularise it will arise only when we are in a position to produce it on a commercial scale.

*509 [The questioner (Shri M. P. Bhargava) was absent. For answer vide col. 3023 infra.]