

police officers are in collusion with these people?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: No, no. I cannot say that.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: There is a detailed report of a case going on in a Bombay court, and there is a reference by one of those involved in the case about some helpful officers in this racket. May I know whether Government has gone into the question as to who these helpful officers are, and are Government intending to conduct an enquiry into that?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I have submitted to you that these matters are being looked into and investigated.

Some Hon. Members: How long will it take?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: How long it will take I cannot say.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: One of those involved. . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the use of being impatient? If hon. Members gave the clue for these people being caught, and Government has proceeded so far, why should they be impatient?

Shri Vasudevan Nair: There is a specific statement by one of these involved. . . .

Mr. Speaker: I agree. How does the hon. Member expect the Parliamentary Secretary to know every detail of what is happening?

Shri Nagi Reddy: I may submit that it is not a question of details, but it is a question of a case already going on in which certain very important allegations are made against officers, against Air France, Scandinavian Airlines and Swiss Air, but the Government has not yet taken a decision whether to probe into it or not, and we cannot say whether they are really serious about it.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Government are probing into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: When the matter is under investigation, hon. Members must be able to point that they are lax or that they are interested in suppressing it. Otherwise. . . .

Shri Ranga: It is open to them to say that they are following the course of the investigation going on in the court. Even that they are not prepared to say.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the Parliamentary Secretary must also be watching all this.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes, Sir.

Shri Nagi Reddy: He said he did not know, that was the whole trouble.

Mr. Speaker: I would request hon. Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries that they must anticipate intelligently whatever questions would be put from the other side, as if they themselves would put those questions. I am sure the Parliamentary Secretary will instruct the officers to watch the proceedings in that court.

Subsidy for Rubber Replanting

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*840. { Shri Subodh Hanada:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether applications for replanting subsidy for Rubber for 1958-59 have been called;

(b) if so, total number of applications received by Government; and

(c) whether these applications have since been considered and any amount paid to each estate owner?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For 1958 — 1830

For 1959 — 506

(c) Yes, Sir. Rs. 67,947 upto 31st October 1958 in respect of applications

for replanting during the year 1958. No amount has been paid in respect of applications relating to the year 1959.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know the conditions laid down for granting subsidy for replanting?

Shri Satish Chandra: The subsidy is given according to the size of the holding. It differs from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400 per acre according to the total size of the holding. It should be utilised for replanting of high yielding strains to replace the low yielding varieties.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether these applications come through the Rubber Board?

Shri Satish Chandra: These applications come to the Rubber Board, they are considered by them, and the subsidy is also granted by them.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the subsidy is confined only to replanting, and whether Government has any scheme for giving such subsidy which is demanded by many people in the case of new plantings?

Shri Satish Chandra: The subsidy that I am referring to is for replanting only, and is given by the Rubber Board.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I was asking whether there was any scheme for subsidising new plantings, because ordinarily estates....

Mr. Speaker: For expansion. All that he wants to know is whether any subsidy is given for expansion.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Replanting is to cut down the existing trees which may be yielding something, new planting is in virgin areas.

Shri Satish Chandra: There is no scheme at present, but this scheme covers 70,000 acres of land which is not yielding satisfactory results, and therefore this 70,000 acres of land is first to be replanted. This scheme alone costs more than Rs. 2 crores and is considered sufficient for the time being.

Shri Punnoose: Is it not a fact that the Rubber Board has recommended a scheme for new plantings, and may I know why that scheme is kept in cold storage?

Mr. Speaker: He has just explained and said that this scheme covering 70,000 acres costs Rs. 2 crores.

Shri Punnoose: You have not understood me.

Mr. Speaker: I will understand him.

Shri Punnoose: He is referring to replanting, I am speaking about new planting. A scheme has been submitted by the Rubber Board. I was a member of that. I want to know what has happened to that.

Mr. Speaker: I understand, but merely because the hon. Member was a member of that committee, every recommendation of his need not be implemented immediately.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That was not what was meant.

Mr. Speaker: We are all watching the answers and the questions. Shri V. P. Nayar put the same question, and then I explained the position with regard to re-planting versus planting newly or extension or something of that kind. The hon. Minister has answered that 70,000 acres are being re-planted at a cost of Rs. 4 crores, and, therefore, there is no new planting.

Shri Satish Chandra: I said Rs. 2½ crores.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know whether the financial condition of these estate-owners is poor and hence this subsidy is given to them, and if so, whether any taccavi loan instead of subsidy would be given to them?

Shri Satish Chandra: A large number of these applications comes from small growers who have got holdings ranging between one acre and five acres. Assistance is also given to

larger planters. This is being done as the recommendation of the Plantation Enquiry Committee, as it is considered necessary to increase the production of rubber within the country to meet the increasing requirements.

Shri Ranga: Over how many areas do they hope to complete these 70,000 acres of area for re-planting, what has been the progress till now, and has it been quite satisfactory in the light of the targets that we have placed before ourselves?

Shri Satish Chandra: The scheme started last year, and about 2,771 acres....

Shri Ranga: Over how many years?

Shri Satish Chandra: Over ten years. The scheme is spread over a period of ten years; and a rubber plant takes about seven to eight years to grow up and to yield rubber.

Shri Ranga: Since they have planted only about two thousand acres in one year, and it is to be spread over a period of only ten years, when do they expect to fulfil the targets?

Mr. Speaker: He said 'ten years'.

Shri Ranga: For ten years at the rate of 2,000 it will come to only 20,000 acres.

Shri Satish Chandra: It will gather momentum gradually. According to the present programme, the production will increase to 32,400 tons, from the present production of 23,000 tons, by the year 1966; it will go up to 46,000 tons by 1973, and to 52,000 tons in 1975 as against 23,000 tons now.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: In view of the deficit of raw rubber not being more than a few thousand tons, what steps do Government propose to take to give increased financial assistance to the rubber growers to bring in more acreage under rubber production?

Mr. Speaker: The same question has been asked twice.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether bringing virgin lands under rubber plantations will not pay more per acre than renovating the old ones?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members want to argue out this matter. I am not going to allow it.

Shri Tangamani: May I know how much has been allotted for re-plantation, State-wise, particularly, for the Kerala and Madras States?

Shri Satish Chandra: It is not State-by State. The Rubber Board considers on merit all these applications from the growers as they are received.

Shri Pannoose: May I know whether Government are not considering any schemes for new plantations in view of the fact that there is a synthetic rubber plant coming up?

Shri Satish Chandra: The same question is being put again. But I might clarify that the total area under rubber is said to be 2,62,000 acres; the actual tappable area is only 1,75,000 acres; the rest is not yielding any rubber, though there may be some stray plants here and there. All that area, in fact, is a new area which is now to be used for re-plantation purposes.

Bhooswamis' Representation

*841. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 222 on the 18th August, 1958 and state:

(a) whether representation from Bhooswamis of Rajasthan has since been examined and a report submitted to the Prime Minister; and

(b) if so, the conclusions he has arrived at and what advice he has given in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (**Shri Sajath Ali Khan**): (a) and (b). The various representations from the