

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shri Achuthas: Have the Government any idea of persuading the State Governments to restrict the growth of the Arts colleges for some years in view of the increase in the number of unemployed graduates?

Shri V. V. Giri: He may refer it to some other Ministry.

COTTON CULTIVATION

*876. **Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary question to starred question No. 1101 asked on the 23rd June, 1952 regarding cotton cultivation and state the acreage of land diverted under cotton cultivation last year?

The Minister of Agriculture (**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh**): In the absence of exhaustive field to field surveys of land, it is not possible to arrive at any firm estimate of the extent of land that was actually diverted from foodgrains to cotton during 1951-52. On the basis, however, of the available data, it is roughly estimated that the maximum amount of net diversion of land from foodgrains to cotton during 1951-52 is likely to be of the order of 3.17 lakh acres. The actual diversion is, in fact, likely to be appreciably less as the above estimate is based on the extreme assumption that all the addition to the acreage under cotton was at the expense of foodgrains and not of other crops or of fallows nor due to inter-cropping.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know what percentage of our total requirement of cotton is met by internal production?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The percentage may go up to about eighty.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: What are the steps taken by Government for increasing cotton production so that the country may be self-sufficient in cotton?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether there will be increased acreage under cotton cultivation so as to make India self-sufficient in cotton.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are depending more upon intensive cultivation to produce more from the same acreage.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know whether the prices of cotton produced here and of those purchased from foreign countries are different?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is very great difference. Sir.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: What is the difference between the two prices?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It will depend on variety to variety. It is difficult to say.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think we are going to another subject.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the final estimate for production for 1951-52 and what is the overall increase over the 1947-48 production?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For 1951-52 we have got revised figures, and that comes to over 36 lakh bales.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants the comparative figures of 1947-48 also.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think it is more than double that.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether there has been any increase in the area under irrigation of cotton?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not very much, but there are a lot of people very keen to have irrigated cotton cultivation.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether the Government of India has proposed to the State Governments to have a protected area for cotton?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is a matter which rests with the State Governments. So far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned I think the Government is taking up the question.

Shri Kelappan: In view of the fact that we are exporting cotton and cotton yarn, is it not the inference that we are producing more than our requirements?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as a particular variety viz. the short staple variety is concerned.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether diversion to cotton cultivation was responsible for decrease in the cultivation of foodgrains?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It was already answered.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: To the limited extent that I have stated.

Sardar Lal Singh: The hon. Minister said that the difference in prices is due to the varieties.....

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I never said that. I did not say that the difference was due to the varieties. I said there are so many varieties that it is not possible to state in one the difference in the prices because it would be necessary to go into details.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This relates to cotton cultivation. Anything about prices here?

Sardar Lal Singh: Cotton cultivation will depend upon the price that is given for cotton.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I won't allow the question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Has the Central Government issued any directions to the State Governments asking them not to allow as far as possible the diversion of land under foodgrains to cotton cultivation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No directions are issued but the State Governments are aware of the Government of India's policy.

VANASPATI RESEARCH PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

*877. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Vanaspati Research Planning Committee has been received and considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the important recommendations accepted and rejected by Government?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The report has not yet been received. The Committee has, however, furnished the results of their researches and these have been considered by the Government.

(b) The important conclusions of the Committee were:—

(1) In comparative feeding experiments carried out, at four different research centres, on rats for three generations with raw groundnut oil, refined groundnut oil and vanaspati of melting points 37°C. and 41°C. the results indicate that there is no deleterious effect produced by vanaspati as compared with the raw or refined oil.

(2) Human feeding trials carried out at four different centres also indicate that vanaspati of melting point 37°C. has no harmful effect as compared with raw groundnut oil.

(3) As regards comparative Nutritive Value of (i) Ghee, (ii) Raw groundnut oil, (iii) Refined groundnut oil, (iv) Vanaspati of melting point 37°C. and (v) Vanaspati of melting point 41°C., ghee is the best, raw groundnut oil, refined groundnut oil and vanaspati of melting point 37°C. are next best to pure ghee and vanaspati of melting

point 41°C. comes third in nutritive value.

The Government of India have accepted the conclusions arrived at by the Committee and have banned the production of vanaspati of melting point higher than 37°C. under the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Committee will submit any final report or it will continue for a long time?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It will depend upon the Committee, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the centres where the researches are being carried on?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the information here.

Shri S. N. Das: When this Committee was appointed in 1947, was it the intention of the Government to continue it for a long time or any specific time was fixed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No specific time was fixed? The Government will determine in consultation with the Committee when it terminates its work.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any expenditure is being incurred for this purpose? If that is so, what is the amount?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to have notice.

Shri Namdhari: Will Government consider discouraging the use of vanaspati ghee with a view to reducing the number of T.B. patients and further to eliminate the risk of the production of war quality children?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that scientific research has shown that there is no bad effect, I do not think the question arises of discouraging the use of Vanaspati ghee.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the conclusions arrived at by this Research Committee are identical with the conclusions arrived at in other countries?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. The decisions arrived at by this Committee are similar to those arrived at in foreign countries. I believe that was the question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Did they carry out the research independently or were they provided with the results that were arrived at in different countries?