

12.41 hrs.

KERALA APPROPRIATION (NO. 5)
BILL, 1965

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala for the services of the financial year 1965-66, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala for the services of the financial year 1965-66, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That Clauses 1, 2 and 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.42½ hrs.

RESOLUTIONS RE. INDIAN CO-
COANUT COMMITTEE, AND IN-
DIAN CENTRAL OILSEEDS COM-
MITTEE—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: Out of two hours, one hour and 45 minutes have already

been taken, and only 15 minutes remain. Shri Maniyangadan.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I would like to know when the Minister is going to reply.

Mr. Speaker: Soon after this I suppose.

Shri Maniyangadan (Kottayam): It is admitted on all hands that the commodity committees which are now proposed to be dissolved were doing some good work. The main reason advanced by the Government for abolishing these committees is that in respect of research it is advised by experts that the present pattern should be changed, that commodity-wise research is out of date and that a new pattern should be evolved by which there should be comprehensive research and regional research. In principle I accept that, but I would submit that certain commodities, for example coconut, arecanut, rubber and tea, have got their own peculiar problems, and in the matter of research also they have to be looked at in this way.

The two motions before the House are regarding the Coconut Committee and the Oilseeds Committee. As regards coconut, we know what the main decisions are. I do not say that the research work done hitherto under the control of the Coconut Committee has given results capable of wiping out all the diseases, but they were doing some work. I only desire that by the new pattern now evolved the diseases of coconut trees, mainly root and leaf diseases, may be eradicated. I have no objection to the new pattern, but I am afraid that the peculiar diseases and the peculiar surroundings connected with coconut and other commodities may not be given as much attention as was being done hitherto. I only request that that may be looked into, that that aspect may be taken into consideration.

Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Maniyangadan]

Quite apart from the research in the laboratories, there is another aspect which is more important, namely that the results of the research have to be taken to the agriculturists. I am afraid the ICAR is not now in a position to do that. The results of research were being taken to the agriculturists through various agencies by the Cocoanut Committee. If that is to be done, my submission is that some agency like the Cocoanut Committee is absolutely essential.

Shri Joachim Alva (Kanara): What is the use of the Cocoanut Committee when the price of a cocoanut is Rs. 1.25 in Delhi?

Shri Maniyangadan: The Cocoanut Committee will not bring down the price. My hon. friend from Mysore should have studied a little more about cocoanut plantation.

Mr. Speaker: Then the hon. Member might be invited to Kerala.

Shri Maniyangadan: Yes, he is welcome.

More than 50 per cent of the cocoanut trees in Kerala are affected by diseases. It is a very serious matter. Cocoanut was being imported, but now recently some restrictions have been imposed I am told, and that is the reason why the price has gone up. He said in Delhi it is Rs. 1.25. Now in Kerala also the price has gone up, but what is happening to the poor agriculturist? Most of the agriculturists are small holders owning ten or 100 trees at the most. The price increase is being taken advantage of by middlemen, it does not go to the cultivator. That is the actual position. That is another aspect which has to be gone into. As I submitted, only a committee like the Cocoanut Committee can find remedies for that.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): But it has not done anything so far.

Shri Maniyangadan: The hon. Minister says that nothing has been done so far, I admit, but the fact that nothing has been done so far and that something more could be done, improvements could be effected, is no reason for liquidating the Committee.

There is the Rubber Board which is doing work which may not be known to the Members. It is stated by the Government that rubber, tea and coffee plantations are big ones, that in the case of cocoanut it is not so. Actually, more than 50 per cent of the rubber plantations in India consist of small holdings between three and five acres, but the Rubber Board is encouraging the small holders, it is giving subsidy in certain cases to the small holders, it is giving technical advice to the small holders. It has its own field workers and so many other people to go into matter. If such activities are taken up by the Cocoanut Committee, that will definitely do some good.

Another thing is regarding better seedlings.

Mr. Speaker: Is he likely to take more time?

Shri Maniyangadan: I may take five or six minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Five minutes more.

Shri Kappen (Muvattupuzha): Yesterday it was almost decided to extend the time.

Mr. Speaker: We have had too many extensions already.

Shri Kappen: Yesterday it was said it would be considered.

Shri Maniyangadan: Shri Alva's intervention has taken me to the other points.

Shri Joachim Alva: It was the most relevant intervention.

Shri Maniyangadan: I was referring to small holders, and comparing the Rubber Board with the Coconut Committee. I admit that the Coconut Committee has not done as much as the Rubber Board is doing, but I suggest that it should be made to do such things. I am prepared to give suggestions, but I think it is no use. If better seedlings are provided to the agriculturists, that will go a long way in the development of coconut plantations. There are certain nurseries run by the coconut committee and better seedlings are provided. Research can improve it more. I do not know whether the proposed development council will be able to do that. The coconut committee is the only body which can take up this work.

12-50 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair.]

More than fifty per cent of the trees are affected by some disease and with so much research no remedy has been found yet. The only suggestion given by the experts now is most of these trees should be cut away and removed and new plants put in their place, new plants of better varieties. If that is to be done, I suggest that some scheme like the rubber board's scheme of subsidising replantation must be introduced here also. Just as in the case of rubber, here also the trees begin to yield only after 10 or 11 years. A small holder with about 10 or 20 trees in a small compound will not willingly cut away all trees and just wait for another ten years to get yield. That is why I suggested a scheme like the rubber board's scheme. The coconut committee had such a proposal in the last year but before it could materialise, there came this proposal to abolish this committee and nothing could be done. Government should seriously consider this matter.

As a result of the research work, several other things are being done by this committee. From the nur-

series new seedlings are supplied; valuable literature regarding coconut plantations are issued by this committee; there are demonstration plans and they go to the agriculturists' lands and demonstrate how pesticides are to be applied and diseases are to be prevented. I do not know whether these things could be continued. They may say that the State Government can look into it. Coconut trees are an important plantation and the State government may do something but in India we are in need of more coconuts for industrial purposes and also as a food. So, coconut plantations should be increased and started in other States like West Bengal and Assam. So, this should be looked into as an all India basis.

Shri Joachim Alva: Can you please tell us who neglected the coconut, the rich landlords in Kerala or the government?

Shri Maniyangadan: As regards research, even now the president of the coconut committee is the director general and vice president of ICAR. The experts of the ICAR are associated with this committee and there is overall control by the ICAR. I do not want that research should be done with regard to separate commodities in water tight compartments but there must be co-ordination.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sufficient has been about coconut now.

Shri Maniyangadan: One thing about the staff of the committees. There are a large number of people employed there. I do not know what is going to happen if all these commodity committees are dissolved. As Mr. Warrior said, it was a losing fight. So, government must see that the present position of the staff is maintained and there should be no cut-throat and some alternative employment should be found out for them.

Shri Kappen: Sir, you promised to extend the time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That time is over now. The hon. Minister.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I have listened with attention to all the points made by the hon. Members, particularly Members from Kerala, with regard to coconut development.

Shri Joachim Alva: I come from Mysore, next door.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have the advantage of coming from an area which is adjacent to Kerala and personally also I am interested in coconut gardens and also in the oil seeds because in our area oil seeds are grown and on my own lands oil seeds are grown. Even as a grower these are all problems with which I am familiar, apart from my association with one of the commodities committee the tobacco committee. There is no difference in the point of view of objective that is to be achieved. We should do vigorous research to identify the various problems with regard to these commodities and find solutions to them. Secondly, whatever is achieved in the field of research should be taken to the growers so that these commodities may develop properly. Even though they had powers, these committees had done very little about marketing. It is true that the DG of the ICAR is the chairman of all these committees, as was mentioned and it is true that it was an anomalous position. But who is ultimately responsible for the research work? If we ask the committee, they would say that ICAR do not make sufficient funds available for the various research schemes and so nothing could be done. The ICAR will say that it is not responsible because there are the commodity committees. Somehow in our administrative set up which we have inherited from the British nobody is ultimately responsible. Unfortunately because we have got accustomed to a

certain set up we always think much before we change that particularly in these various fields unless we are in a position to locate responsibility and make a particular organisation or individual responsible...

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, on a point of order. I am sure you will agree that when the Minister is back home, fresh from Rome, and is speaking on a subject like the coconut and allied matters, there should be quorum in the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Bell is being rung.

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Minister may continue.

13 hrs.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I was mentioning that we have got accustomed to a set-up where nobody is ultimately responsible for any result or for any failure, and that was how these commodity committees in relation to the ICAR were functioning with regard to research. In addition to that, as I already mentioned, research cannot now be oriented only to a particular commodity, but it has got to be more broad-based. In addition to that, we should have a large number of other scientific experts also for the purpose of strengthening research and achieving results. Therefore, I am not surprised to hear that in spite of this unified attention of this committee with regard to coconut, no worthwhile results have come out of the research work done under this committee to solve many of the problems affecting the coconut plantations. This is the condition under which we came to this decision, not that under fortunate conditions we can always achieve results; but that is more proper.

Shri Kappen: May I know whether the research station has evolved a hybrid variety which is resistant to root disease and leaf disease?

Shri C. Subramaniam: A small item of work is not the thing which is required now. We have to save millions of trees which are standing

now. No doubt that will solve the problem of new plantations, but the fate of millions of farmers depends upon whether you are able to save the existing gardens, but unfortunately no solution has been found. That is why research work has got to be more intensive under proper auspices, not that it would always achieve success but there are greater probabilities of achieving results in this, whereas in the past set-up you could never achieve any worth-while results. This is the main and important thing which will have to be taken into consideration.

As far as development is concerned, there also there is the dual responsibility. Under the constitution, the development aspect has to be looked after by the State Governments and that is why, when the present constitution came into existence, these commodity committees said that they would assist the State Governments by giving technical advice. That is how they have been functioning even with regard to development; the responsibility was with the State Governments under the constitution for any development work in the agricultural sector. Therefore, nobody is ultimately responsible. The State Government might say that the commodity committees did not do it properly and the commodity committees might say that the State Governments, in spite of their advice, have not done the task properly. That is why even with regard to development, the responsibility will have to be placed squarely on a particular authority and the success or failure should be the responsibility of that authority. Therefore, it is with reference to these things that we considered the whole aspect not only for the first time, but for the last 10 years that has been under consideration. We are always afraid of making changes, and I thought that when we were reorganising the whole set-up of the ICAR, that was the time to take up the consideration of the commodity com-

mittees also; the ICAR is not going to be hereafter merely an institution which would be sanctioning grants or sanctioning schemes. Now, it becomes the body which would be responsible for the entire research work in the agricultural sector. It does not mean that it gets centralised at Delhi; no; as a matter of fact, the research work will have to be done at the field level, and therefore the research work will be located wherever it has got to be done, but the co-ordination is done by the ICAR so that there is a co-ordinated approach with regard to this matter, and whatever results might be available in the research work in any laboratory will be available for the benefit of the laboratories doing work on any particular commodity. So, the scientific experts and administrators gave us the advice that it is better to have the entire agricultural research work done under one organisation, and have a co-ordinated approach to these commodities and intensify our research work, and that is what is being attempted by taking away the research work from these commodity committees and placing it under the ICAR.

As far as development is concerned, I already stated that it was merely giving technical advice. It is not as if we are abolishing the entire committees as such. On the other hand, with almost the same composition—the statute has to go because the main research work is being taken away—we are having the development councils in which all these interests will be represented and they will be able to advise the Government of India and the State Governments and whatever they have got to say will be given due weight for the purpose of seeing that the problems of the grower and the producer are properly looked into.

With regard to the development councils, they will be properly staffed, and some of the staff who are now being employed in these various commodity committees will be absorbed

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

in the development councils, and as far as research workers are concerned, they will be definitely absorbed by the ICAR. I can give the assurance that we would see that nobody, as far as possible, is thrown out of employment and they would be properly placed. Particularly in regard to the low-placed officials, we shall try to see that they are not displaced, from where they are already working, to distant places.

The object of the resolution on the abolition of these committees is for the purpose of intensifying the work and for achieving results. I can give the assurance to this House that there would be no neglect as far as these commodities are concerned,—particularly, coconut, oilseeds and tobacco and other commodities—and they have to play an essential role in our agricultural economy. In fact, my idea is to have better work done in respect of these commodities so that the problems relating to these commodities would be properly solved and tackled and the development work is properly done and the marketing operations also is properly co-ordinated with these things. With this assurance, I hope the hon. Members would agree to the adoption of this resolution and see that in the development councils the various representatives from this House also are there and they would give proper suggestions for the purpose of implementation and I can assure them that those suggestions will be given proper weight.

One hon. Member has been mentioning about the price of coconut. I know it is very high. As a grower, while I am happy, I do agree that the consumers are hard hit by it. It shall be our endeavour to see that we grow more and more coconuts in our own country instead of depending upon imports from other countries so that we will be self-sufficient in copra also. That is also one of the objectives of the development council and

the research work which they will be doing.

Shri Joachim Alva: For over 20 years, they have been doing research work on coconut; there are an army of officials in the Ministry. That is the first point; the second point is, I purchased three coconuts yesterday at Re. 1.25 each, in the market. How can the poor man subsist, when rice is not available? Is the Ministry seized of the problem of very high prices of coconut? How is it going to feed the people in this situation? There is no satisfactory answer.

Shri B. K. Das (Contai): May I know what will be the nature of the research work in regard to the other commodities such as rubber, coffee, and so on? Will they have the same reorganisation and will they also be brought under the ICAR?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are trying to bring under the ICAR the entire research work in the agricultural field, but those commodities come under another Ministry. We will have to negotiate with that Ministry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

- (i) "Whereas section 17 of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (10 of 1944), empowers the Central Government to declare, with the previous approval of the House of the People and by notification in the Official Gazette, that with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, the Indian Coconut Committee constituted under that Act shall be dissolved;

And whereas the Central Government is of the opinion that a declaration to the above effect should be made as in the draft notification annexed hereto;

And whereas this House after considering the said draft notification and the views expressed in support thereof on behalf of the Central Government is of the opinion that the previous approval of this House to the declaration proposed in the draft notification should be accorded;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of section 17 of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (10 of 1944), this House accords its approval to the draft notification containing the aforesaid declaration.

ANNEXURE

Draft Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 17 of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (10 of 1944), the Central Government, with the previous approval of the House of the People, hereby declares that with effect from 1st April, 1966 the Indian Coconut Committee constituted under that Act shall be dissolved."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

- (ii) "Whereas section 16 of the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946 (9 of 1946), empowers the Central Government to declare, with the previous approval of the House of the People and by notification in the Official Gazette, that with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee constituted under that Act shall be dissolved,

And whereas the Central Government is of the opinion that a declaration to the above effect should be made as in the draft notification annexed hereto;

And whereas this House after considering the said draft notification and the views expressed in support thereof on behalf of the Central Government is of the opinion that the previous approval of this House to the declaration proposed in the draft notification should be accorded;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of section 16 of the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946 (9 of 1946), this House accords its approval to the draft notification containing the aforesaid declaration.

ANNEXURE

Draft Notification

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946 (9 of 1946), the Central Government, with the previous approval of the House of the People, hereby declares that with effect from 1st April, 1966, the Indian Central Oilseeds Committee constituted under that Act shall be dissolved."

The motion was adopted.

13.11 hrs.

DELHI ADMINISTRATION BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I seek to substitute the motion which stands in my name by another motion, which has been circulated.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration of the Union