

Shri Swaran Singh: About the second thing, it is his own conclusion that looting has brought down the price. I do not accept it. (*Interruption*). So far as the first part is concerned, if a particular commodity is in extremely short supply, then the trade unfortunately in this country, even with regard to food, does not observe the decency of not pushing up the price. But the other alternative commodity is available at lower prices. Although the price of indigenous wheat itself ruled at a high level, the actual quantity that is the subject matter of the sale at higher prices is very small.

श्री शिव नारायण : यू० पी० के अन्दर सरकारी दुकानों पर गेहूँ और आटा नहीं मिलता तो क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि उस को बफर स्टॉक से क्या दिया गया ?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : यू० पी० सरकार ने जितना मांगा था उस कदर उन को दिया गया है ।

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मेरा प्रश्न भी इस पर है इसलिये मुझे भी सवाल पूछ लेने दीजिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं ने दूसरा सवाल बुला दिया है ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: Sir, with your permission, I beg to correct the statement made by me. I think I said that our target of buffer stock is six million tons of wheat. It is four million tons of wheat and two million tons of rice (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: The target is six million tons: four million tons of wheat and two million tons of rice. That is the correction which he has made. Next question.

"Hansa Test"

*281. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new test called 'Hansa Test' has been evolved by the National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal to distinguish between cow and buffalo milk; and

(b) if so, the precise nature of technique and process found out?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) Yes.

(b) A serum is used for the Test. The serum is obtained by injecting buffalo milk into a rabbit. To perform the Test the sample is well mixed and one drop is placed on a clean glass slide. A drop of serum is placed on the drop of milk and then the two are thoroughly mixed with a clean glass rod. In about one minute the sample of milk develops a curdling reaction in the case of buffalo milk. The curdling reaction does not occur in the case of cow milk. The Test enables detection of even 1 per cent of buffalo milk in cow milk.

Mr. Speaker: It is a technical process. The hon. Member could have found it out from somebody else instead of asking it from the Minister. Yes, Shri Shree Narayan Das.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I want to know whether the Government has taken a patent for it, and, if so, whether that will be kept up.

The Minister of of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): The Government have not taken any patent, but the National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal is manufacturing this and supplying it to the various dairies. In fact, the cost of each kit and equipment is Rs. 30 and the cost of the serum is Rs. 14.25 per ounce.

Shri Man Singh P. Patel: May I know whether the Government has advised that this test should be used in all the dairies?

Shri Shinde: Wherever it is necessary, it is employed. Actually it is being employed by several dairies.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: May I know whether this test can be applied only to detect the admixture of cow's milk with buffalo's milk or to other admixtures also viz. of cow's milk with goat's milk or sheep's milk?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Buffalo's milk by adulteration is being sold as cow's milk. In fact, it is to avoid this that this test is used. Even if buffalo's milk is mixed to the extent of 1 per cent it can be detected by this process.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the test will be fruitful if sufficient water is added to buffalo's milk and the milk is lighter, so that it may appear like cow's milk?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Even for that case, this test will be useful.

Fire in Cargo Ship

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*284. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cargo ship, "the State of Maharashtra" caught fire at the Alexandra Docks in Bombay on or about the 25th December, 1963;

(b) if so, the damage suffered in the accident; and

(c) the cause of the fire?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A preliminary enquiry into this accident is in progress to find out the cause and the damage involved.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when the preliminary enquiry was started and when it is expected to conclude its deliberations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot exactly give the date as to when it was started. But it will be completed by the end of this month.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether there is somebody like the Inspector of Railways who carries out the enquiries in the case of railway accidents or some *ad hoc* committee has been appointed in order to conduct this enquiry?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Enquiries are conducted under the Merchant Shipping Act by the mercantile marine department. It is in pursuance of this that this enquiry has been initiated. The accident occurred on 25th December 1963 and the enquiry must have started in the month of January.

Forest Wealth

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*285. { **Shri D. D. Puri:**
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) how far Vanamahotsav campaigns have helped increase the forest wealth of the country;

(b) how long Government propose continuing such campaigns; and

(c) the annual cost of the campaign?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) The Vanamahotsav campaign is helping a great deal in increasing the forest wealth of the country by persuading people to plant as many trees on the occasion as possible.

(b) As we are deficient in regard to the area under forest, it is necessary to continue the Vanamahotsav campaign for a long time.

(c) The information is being collected from States/Union Territories and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when received.

Shri D. D. Puri: May I know whether the Government have assessed the results of this campaign, particularly as to the survival ratio of the trees after one, two and three years?