

what will be the price—it may be Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 lakhs.

Shri Tyagi: Parliament's approval must be taken before these things are taken up.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know if this Training Institute will train the incumbents in wholesale trade in order to provide wholesale stores as feeding centres for small consumer cooperatives?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: This Institute will actually train the executives and other personnel working in the wholesale stores. Their number is getting large. It is not expected that this Institute will train any other type of personnel for other societies. The training for other societies is being arranged elsewhere, in other States.

Dr. M. S. Aney: May I know why it is that Bombay has been chosen as a State for starting this Institute? When it is to cover the whole country, why not have a central place for that?

Mr. Speaker: That he has already answered.

"Freedom from Hunger" Campaign in U.K.

*291. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Indian photographs exhibited recently throughout Britain by the U.K. Committee for the "Freedom from Hunger" campaign;

(b) whether it is a fact that those photos depicted Indians as starving and naked masses; and

(c) whether Government had provided facilities to a team of British Journalists and cameramen to tour India recently in this connection?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) Some photographs have come to the notice of Government through press cuttings.

(b) These photographs appear to be intended to exhibit the extent of malnutrition and under-nourishment.

(c) The team of British journalists visited India at the instance of the United Kingdom Freedom from Hunger Campaign Committee who financed the visit. No special facilities were provided to the team by the Government of India. Only normal courtesy extended to visitors from friendly countries was shown to them.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Have the Government's attention been drawn to the several reports which appeared in British newspapers, like the *Observer* and the *Express*, describing this photographic exhibition in terms of showing Indians as the objects of charity who cannot be looked after by their own Government? Does the Government consider this to be objectionable or not?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It may not be like that. In fact, the U.K. "Freedom from Hunger" campaign has a common cause for the developing and under-developed countries, the extent of mal-nutrition existing, and, in fact, the FAO has launched this, and it is at the suggestion of the FAO that various committees have been set up in more than 80 countries and they are adopting the campaign. In our own country also, we have a "Freedom from Hunger" Campaign Committee and we have certain propaganda ventures also. It may not be quite charitable to take it in any other light.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of what the hon. Minister has said just now—I am not bothered about the committee here—what is the relation between the UK committee and our Government, and how do they propose to help us to eradicate under-nutrition and malnutrition with the help of such photographic exhibitions abroad?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is no official connection between the UK

Committee and our own Government. But as I have already said, these committees are there in various countries, in more than eighty countries, and they are undertaking this programme. The UK Freedom from Hunger Campaign Committee has adopted certain action-projects for assistance in various countries and in pursuance of them they were collecting funds from their own country.

Shri Swell: Am I to take it that the hon. Minister is quite happy with this image that is being projected abroad about India? If not, what steps are Government taking to acquaint the public in other countries with the fact that this is not the whole picture about India?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, we have no control over their propaganda. They are a non-official organisation and, therefore, we have no control over them.

Shri Swell: Is the hon. Minister happy about it?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The question of happiness does not arise.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Up till now, what contribution, financial or otherwise, has this UK Committee made for this campaign?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I want notice.

Shri Tyagi: Since this propaganda aims at getting free aid of food etc., is it not in the opinion of Government a national disgrace to exhibit our nakedness and our starvation to the world for the purpose of begging?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As I have already indicated, this Government or this country has no control over the propaganda machinery of such non-official organisations.

An Hon. Member: Why could they not stop it?

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister has confessed that Government co-operated with them. That means that they themselves were a party to this.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister only said that the normal courtesy was extended.

Shri A. M. Thomas: A senior Member like Shri Tyagi should know that we have absolutely no control over such propaganda as is being carried by non-official organisations in other countries.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Have Government lodged a protest against this kind of propaganda?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Since these pictures or photographs have been shown or broadcast in the UK, has the Indians High Commission in the UK countered this propaganda against India by spotlighting the fact that famine, starvation, and malnutrition have been the result of two centuries of British imperialist tyranny in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh): So far as the exhibition of the photographs is concerned, to put the whole matter in proper perspective, I would like to give this information that it was not that pictures from India only were exhibited, but pictures from a number of other countries where malnutrition exists were also exhibited; certain photographs were taken in those countries also to show that there was malnutrition and under-nourishment, and the campaigners wanted to collect money in order to help the under-developed countries. In such matters, it does sometimes happen that they might project a picture of the country which may not be entirely to the liking of that particular country. But let us not be oversensitive about this.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Have you countered such propaganda?

Shri Swaran Singh: And the worst part of it is the poverty that prevails here, and if other people show it in other countries, it is not as if we are asking them to show it; therefore, I do not know how we can take any serious objection to it. If the House feels that we should not

take any help from them, then I would submit that we are not getting much help.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: At least we can state the facts.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Quite apart from the photographs, in view of the reports in papers like the *Observer* and the *Express*, may I know whether Government propose to disregard altogether this kind of malignant propaganda against India only in the expectation that some assistance in the way of offering food into this country might come? Do Government not contemplate any special steps in this regard?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not think that the intention was to malign India. As I said, certain photographs showing the unfortunate conditions that obtain here, along with similar conditions which prevail in other countries, were exhibited amongst certain people in order to attract money. If they undertake any such thing in which besides India many other countries are involved, I do not know what particular action we should take. It is not that we have asked them to do so, nor have we encouraged them.

Now that these sentiments have been expressed, I am sure that even they will take due notice of our feelings and will not do anything which might touch our susceptibilities.

Shri Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Government themselves have admitted that there is malnutrition on a large-scale, if not on a widespread scale in our country, that there is starvation in our country, and there is also under-nourishment in regard to large sections of the masses, and if so, why is it that Government feel shy about some philanthropic organisation displaying photographs of the reality that is prevailing in this country not only because of 150 years or so of British rule but also because of 16 years of rule by this Government?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not know if this calls for a reply. I am not fighting shy. Certain sections of the House feel strongly about this issue. I have tried to defend it, and take it that Prof. Ranga is more of the view I take rather than that of the view of other Members.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Corporation for Tourism

- *282. { **Shri B. P. Yadava:**
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Maniyangadan:

Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 33 on the 19th November, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the formation of a Corporation for handling activities of a commercial nature connected with tourism has been considered; and

(b) if so, its main functions, shape and scope?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The proposal regarding the formation of a Corporation for handling activities of a commercial nature connected with tourism is yet under consideration of the Government and a decision is expected to be taken early.

चीनी मिलों का आधुनिकीकरण

*२८३. श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश की चीनी मिलों का आधुनिकीकरण करने तथा इस कार्य के लिये पांच करोड़ रुपये का ऋण देने का विचार कर रही है;