

Shri T. N. Singh: The jute bags made in India are one of the best in the world. It should also be remembered that jute bags, once used for cement, cannot be used for anything else.

Purchase of Maize

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*609. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri V. K. Ramaswamy:
Shri M. P. Swamy:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether a purchase of one million bushels of maize has been made from the United States; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). Contracts for the purchase of one million bushels (about 25,000 tonnes) of maize from the U.S.A. have been entered into by the All India Starch Manufacturers' Association, Bombay, and M/s. Maize Products, Ahmedabad. The first shipment of maize is likely to take place during this month.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know why it is that for everything like wheat, rice or maize we go to the United States? May I know if any other country was also contacted from which we could get maize on economic terms?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is a broad question. With regard to maize I can say that this starch is for textile industry and it can be obtained either from tapioca or from maize. Since the tapioca industry would not supply the necessary starch, we have to import from the United States. As regards the other countries, it is most advantageous to us to get from United States because it does not involve foreign exchange as it comes under PL 480.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What attempts are being made to see to it that this

starch is distributed equitably over all the States of India and does not remain confined to Ahmedabad, Bombay or Gujarat?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This industry is an auxiliary to the textile industry and the centres of textile industry are in Bombay and Ahmedabad. Historically that is the reason why starch industry should also be there.

Shri M. P. Swamy: May I know if starch industry is a protected one and, if so, whether protection includes tapioca also; and, if so, why is the Government allowing the import of maize?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I do not think there is any protection for this industry.

Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: What will be the landing of maize price per quintal and what additional costs will be added to it when it reaches the consumers?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I could not tell. The private parties have entered into an agreement.

Shri Muthu Gounder: In view of the availability of indigenous tapioca starch in huge quantities, will the Government consider the stoppage of maize import under PL 480, or will the Government consider its reduction by at least fifty per cent? There is a huge quantity of tapioca indigenously produced. It is a product of the rural small-scale industry.

Mr. Speaker: He is giving information.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The hon. Member has been in correspondence with me. He has met me several times. He comes from my own district of Salem where there is this industry. I have been trying to tell him that any quantity of tapioca starch, if it is available, will be readily purchased by the textile industry.

Mr. Speaker: I would advise both the hon. Members to go to their home district and settle it.

श्री बड़ो : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलाने का कष्ट करेंगे कि स्टार्च की डेफिसिट की वजह से पिछले महीनों में कितनी मिलें बन्द पड़ी थीं और उन के वास्ते शासन ने क्या किया ?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There are five mills dealing with starch production out of maize. All of them have closed since January, but they are likely to function again as soon as maize arrives from the United States.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि जो मक्का का खरीद हो रहा है वह प्राइवेट कंपनियों के जरिये हो रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्राइवेट कंपनियाँ जो मक्का खरीद रद्द हैं और जिसे वे उपभोक्ताओं के हाथ बेचेंगी, उन के मूल्यों पर नियंत्रण करने का सरकार कोई व्यवस्था कर रही है या नहीं कि वे महंगी बेच रही हैं या सस्ती बेच रही हैं।

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They are not likely to sell maize at all because their own factories are being starved for want of this raw material as also the textile industry. Besides, this kind of starch can be used only for industrial purposes, not for consumption purposes.

Allotment of Scooterettes

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 Shri Warrior:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Daji:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri Abdul Ghani Goni:
 Shri Hukam Chand
 Kachhavaia:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Brij Raj Singh:
 Shri Jagdev Singh
 Siddhanti:
 Shri Omkar Singh:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1962

permits were issued by his Ministry for the allotment of scooterettes on priority basis out of the Central Government quota;

(b) if so, the total number of Government employees who were allotted scooterettes in 1962 out of the Central Government quota;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all the holders of scooterette permits have not been given delivery of the vehicles as the production of scooterettes was subsequently stopped; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 174.

(c) Scooterettes have not been delivered to 99 allottees.

(d) No action can be taken in the matter since the production of scooterettes has been discontinued.

Shri Warrior: To the previous question, the hon. Minister was pleased to say that they are encouraging the production of scooters and that they are issuing new licences for its production. May I know why this production, which is already in existence, has been stopped?

Shri T. N. Singh: This is a model which the principal manufacturers have discontinued. The scooterette has been discontinued by the principal manufacturers and they therefore cannot get the components to carry on their further production programme.

Shri Warrior: Has the Government investigated the reasons for these manufacturers to stop that and has it taken any steps to let them renew this production?

Shri T. N. Singh: I have already stated that the production of these scooterettes was in collaboration with