

tion of the Government and a decision is expected to be reached after consultation with concerned Ministries.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know to what extent foodgrains were carried by the Indian ships during the last two years and what are the prospects for carrying foodgrains from the USA?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as carriage of foodgrains from the neighbouring countries, namely, Burma, Thailand, etc. is concerned, much of it has been brought in the Indian ships, but with regard to the USA, we have not been able to employ them for the obvious reason that the ship does not find the return cargo.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any financial help was offered to private companies who could operate, even if it were necessary, at lower freight rates?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No specific proposals or suggestions have been made for financial assistance or other economic support. But the fact goes without saying that Government will certainly consider any such scheme and try to see how far the pioneering losses can be compensated.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि जो अनाज भिन्न-भिन्न बन्दरगाहों पर लाया गया उसमें से कितना मजदूरों के विवाद के कारण खराब हो गया, और आयन्दा ऐसा न हो इसके लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अनाज खराब होने का प्रश्न तो इसमें नहीं आता। लेकिन जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है बहुत कम अनाज खराब हुआ ही तो हुआ हो। मुझे ठीक ज्ञान नहीं है।

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Until such time as we are able to make arrangements for Indian ships to carry these foodgrains, may I know how much

we shall be losing by way of foreign exchange because of our having to pay this freight in dollars now to the US shipping companies?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That depends upon the quantity of foodgrains imported. So far as I know, about Rs. 6 crores are spent on freight for transport of one million tonnes of foodgrains.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what the financial arrangement will be, and what the implication of that financial arrangement will be, if the export of iron ore to Japan were to be linked up with the import of foodgrains?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The exact financial implications are being worked out, and that is exactly the matter to be decided now. But the idea is that on the return journey, the return cargo should consist of iron ore from here to Europe or from here to Japan, and then they have to go in ballast from there to the American ports—the West or the East American ports, as the case may be, and from there they could come loaded with foodgrains.

Production of Raw Jute

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*609. { **Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:**
Dr. Ranen Sen:

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

(a) whether the production of raw jute has been seriously affected in the eastern part of the country due to drought; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to remedy such a situation in future?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The production of raw jute has been affected to some extent due to drought.

(b) Steps are proposed to be taken to encourage cultivation of jute under

irrigated conditions in deep tube-well areas of West Bengal, Kosi Canal areas of Bihar and Hirakud Project area of Orissa.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know the number of tube-wells which have already been sunk during the Third Plan and brought into commission in West Bengal?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: The arrangements for sinking tube-wells are made by the State Governments, and so, the information will have to be obtained from the State Governments.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know whether due to the bad arrangement of the small irrigation projects, not only jute but other crops also suffer during drought, and what steps Government propose to take to see that these small irrigation projects are completed within a short time?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: Government are giving the highest priority to minor irrigation schemes. In fact, the State Governments were told to go ahead and spend as much as they liked on minor irrigation works.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that the production per acre in Pakistan is about 50 to 70 per cent more than that here and if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps that Government have taken to see that our production also goes up?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: We are taking all possible steps to increase our production by providing better irrigation facilities, better seeds and more fertilisers.

श्री क० ना० सिन्धारी : क्या रा जूट के ज्यादा पैदा न होने का कारण यह है कि किसानों को उसका उचित मूल्य नहीं मिलता ? यदि हाँ, तो इसके लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है कि किसानों को उचित मूल्य मिले जिससे कि जूट का उत्पादन बढ़ सके ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : दामों में कोई कमी नहीं है। एक जूट कमेटी है जो इन सब चीजों को देखती है और किसानों को मुनासिब दाम मिलता है।

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Has it come to the notice of the Minister that State Governments like the West Bengal Government are being compelled to put more area under paddy and less under jute because of the overall food policy of a zone in each State which results in sufficient food not being available in the State? If so, does he propose to do anything about it so that jute as a foreign exchange earner can continue to give us the foreign exchange it has been giving us?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Every encouragement is being given for growing jute and more jute because we require it for our jute industry which is earning foreign exchange. That is why we are supplying to West Bengal sufficient quantities of wheat and rice from outside.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Work to Rule Demand by I.A.C. Employees

*610. { Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Kajolikar:

Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation Employees' Union has threatened to start a "work to rule and work to trade" agitation, if their demands are not accepted;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). One of the Unions of staff in the Indian Airlines Corporation had threatened to resort