

in the south of the country. May I know why the Foodgrains Corporation has not made any purchases in other States, particularly in eastern India? Is it because those State Governments are opposed to the functioning of the Corporation in those areas?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is no question of opposition. This Corporation also should gain experience before it extends its operations. The easiest way perhaps to condemn a public sector corporation would be to overburden it and break it and say this is the way public corporations function. That is why we want to build up the organisation in such a way that it would be able to undertake the purchases in a phased way. Now, in addition to these four States, regional offices have been established in other States also, and they would be undertaking purchases

Shri D. C. Sharma: When this Food Corporation was formed, its objectives were stated to be very broad. May I know why it is that when food is not so much available in this country and we are suffering from shortages, the field of operations of this Food Corporation is diminishing day by day, and how much time will Government take in order to bring this Corporation to its optimum level of operations?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not correct to say that the area of operations is diminishing. On the other hand, it is expanding every month. I think it will take another year at least for the Corporation to spread throughout the country in all the States.

Shri Kapur Singh: How do the procurement prices of these foodgrains compare with the then market prices and the current prices of these foodgrains?

Shri C. Subramaniam: "Then" means what? I could not follow the question.

Shri Kapur Singh: How do the actual procurement prices of the foodgrains compare with the then

market prices and the current market prices of the same foodgrains?

Shri C. Subramaniam: "Then" means what? I do not understand.

Shri Kapur Singh: At the time of the procurement, "Then" means then when the procurement was made.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Thank you. There is not much of a difference because where the Food Corporation is operating there is a maximum price fixed. Therefore, with reference to that there is no difference, but if the hon. Member is referring to the open market price particularly in some scarcity areas, it is bound to be higher.

Luxury Hotels

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*541. **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 157 on the 24th August, 1965 and state:

(a) whether the Indian party who applied for collaboration with Hiltons has submitted the final proposals to set up the proposed net-work of luxury hotels in India;

(b) if so, the broad out-lines thereof; and

(c) whether these proposals fulfil the minimum requirements laid down by Government for such a collaboration?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know why this Indian party is taking so much time to send its report, and if it is taking so much time, why was it formed?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Messrs. Hiltons have drawn up a scheme for collaboration with the Indian party which owns this Shivaji Sibsagar Estate in

cluding the Gwalior Palace. They have got to iron out all the points which go into their agreement and the terms and conditions which will constitute the basis of that agreement. We cannot hustle them into a quick agreement. We have to leave it to their convenience.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Are all the members of the Indian party having negotiations with Hiltons or some representation of the Indian party is having negotiations with Hiltons, and if so, who is the representative for Hiltons and who is the representative for the Indian party?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of the exact names, but the Indian party is of course having its own representative and Hiltons are having their own representatives.

Shri P. C. Borooah: In view of the absolute scarcity of building materials in the country and defence priorities may I know whether Government have any proposal to defer this question of luxury hotels for the time being?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The hotels are not an end in themselves, but a means to an end, the end being to promote tourist trade, to provide for tourist traffic and to earn foreign exchange, and as such it would be rather bad economics if we allow the tourist plan to suffer for want of proper accommodation, proper capacity, and prejudice our tourist promotion or tourist trade.

Import of Rice

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- *542. **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri Solanki:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri D. D. Puri:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

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

(a) whether Government propose to purchase rice from U.A.R., Burma

and Thailand to maintain the food supply in the coming months in the country; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to enter into long-term agreements with these countries for the purchase of rice?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) and (b). Currently, rice is being imported from U.A.R., Burma and Thailand under the existing agreements. The question of arrangements for import of rice from these countries in the future is under consideration.

Shri P. K. Deo: What is the quantum of rice that is going to come and what is the price? How will the payment be made, in rupees or in foreign exchange?

Shri D. R. Chavan: During the current year the quantities that are likely to be imported under the various agreements will be as follows: about 2.87 lakh tonnes under PL 480; and about 5.16 lakh tonnes would have been imported by the end of the year from the following countries: Burma—203,000; Thailand—214,000; Cambodia—39,000; UAR—48,000 and Pakistan—10,000 tonnes.

Shri P. K. Deo: About payment—in rupees?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): Generally it is barter agreement with UAR; we pay in foreign exchange to Burma, Thailand and Cambodia.

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know for how long these imports are to come and by what time India will achieve self-sufficiency in food?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am expecting that by the end of the Fourth Plan we could reach self-sufficiency.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार बतना सकती है कि इसमें लागू टर्म एग्रीमेंट कर