

that have a direct bearing on it. Can we now go into details such as how much land has been acquired, at what price it was acquired, what price was charged from those who got it and so on?

Shri D. C. Sharma: Some land has been acquired. I want to know how much land has been acquired and how much has been disposed of.

Mr. Speaker: How much land has been acquired? I shall allow that one question alone to be answered.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: There have been different notifications, 3,000 acres in one, 34,070 acres in another, 1,808 acres in another and 16,000 acres in another.

Wheat Deal with Australia

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*502. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

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

(a) whether India has entered into a wheat deal with Australia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). On the 6th April, 1962 an Agreement was signed in New Delhi with the Manager of the Australian Wheat Committee, London for supply of 2.7 lakh tons of Australian wheat to India by the 31st July, 1962.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know the price of the Australian wheat and the prevailing prices in the Indian market?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have got the price here with me, but according to an understanding with the Australian wheat Committee, we have deferred disclosure of that information for some time. I may assure the hon. Member that we have got this wheat on more advantageous terms than we were importing previously.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know how we are going to pay the price of the wheat?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We shall have to incur expenditure in foreign exchange.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: When we are already importing wheat under the PL-480 programme, may I know the reason why it was necessary to import wheat under this agreement also?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Under the PL-480 agreement, we are bound to import by way of commercial market—400,000 tons every year. This purchase was made towards that obligation.

श्री अचल सिंह : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि कग तब विदेशों से गेहूँ हिन्दुस्तान आयेगा ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have stated in the main answer that before 31st July, 1962, this quantity will be imported.

Shri Tyagi: After this agreement, may I know how much total expenditure we shall have to incur in the import of wheat per year?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The landed cost of wheat comes to round about £24 a ton. It is a matter of calculation.

Shri Tyagi: I want to know the total amount that has to be spent.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have already purchased from Australia about 3 lakhs tons, from the USA 100,000 tons by way of commercial imports. One ton of wheat costs—I am referring to the landed cost—round about £24.

Shri Tyagi: I want to know the total cost of imported wheat per year from all countries.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has asked the hon. Member to calculate all that, by multiplying the quantity with the rate and so on.

Shri Tyagi: They do not import from one country only. I want to know the total cost of the wheat imported from all the countries per year.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has not got it at present. If he had it, he would have given the answer.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): The total imports during four years, of which two years have gone already, are 16 million tons. A million tons costs about Rs. 40 crores; I am mentioning a round figure. As my hon. colleague has said, we have to import about 400,000 tons or 4 lakhs tons every year by way of commercial imports, out of 4 million tons; therefore, it is 10 per cent. which is the commercial marketing. In respect of that, we have also got a provision that although that is the maximum, yet, if it is possible for us, then we can have less also, because we have our foreign exchange saved in that case. Year after year, we review it. And sometimes, it becomes possible for us to have less also.

Shri Umanath: May I know why that clause is there, as far as the import from Australia is concerned, and whether it was due to insufficiency of imports from America or any other reason?

Shri S. K. Patil: No. This clause is there, and for very natural reasons too, because we were the market for buying wheat for Canada and Australia, and naturally those countries would say that because we got something cheap or for no price from America, therefore, their commercial marketing would be stopped. Therefore, it is a part of the PL-480 agreement that in respect of any country that they deal with, the normal commercial marketing that is there, and that is stipulated in that contract has got to be obeyed.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether we are selling this wheat at the same rate in the internal market as that at which we are buying it from Australia?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We sell at the rate of Rs. 14 per maund, and it is more or less our cost also.

Drought in Southern States

*503. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally approved the relief measures for the Southern States which suffer from drought; and

(b) whether the amount agreed for assistance to Andhra Pradesh has been granted to the State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) So far during the current year no request has been received from the Southern States for any relief measures. It may, however, be mentioned that during 1960-61 when some of the areas in Mysore and Andhra Pradesh were affected by drought it was suggested to the State Governments that minor irrigation works should be given the first priority as they would create permanent assets and at the same time would provide gainful employment to labour in the country-side.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Shri M. R. Krishna is not present in the House.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister began to read the answer. Perhaps he did not know. Anyway, the reply might be completed.

Shri S. K. Patil: (b) For meeting the expenditure on additional minor irrigation schemes in the drought-affected areas, an additional allotment of Rs. 1.40 crores was given to the Andhra Pradesh Government in 1960-61. No such request for additional allotment was received from the Andhra Pradesh Government either in 1961-62 nor has any such request been received from it so far during the current year.