

chasers some kind of card system is to be introduced?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, some such arrangement has been finalised there, and I think it would have been put into practice by now.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It has been said that the fair price shops are not working properly there. May I know whether the Government is thinking of any other substitute scheme for providing foodgrains to the consumers in a better way?

Shri A. M. Thomas: By the introduction of the card system, I think the abuses which have been noticed in the working of the fair price shops should be got rid of.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether this scheme has been approved by the Chief Ministers of various States?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is still in correspondence.

Port Employees

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*934. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 734-A on the 31st May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Officer on Special Duty appointed by Government to enquire into the wages and service conditions of port employees has submitted his report; and

(b) if so, details of the report and recommendations of the said Officer?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) An interim report on part of the terms of reference has been received. The final report is expected to be received shortly.

(b) The recommendations made by the Officer on Special Duty are at present under examination, after which the question of publishing them will be taken up.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether the recommendations of the officer, made in the interim report, have been implemented?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Before the stage of implementation, the stage of consideration, examination and consultation also comes. At present, the recommendations are under examination of the Government.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Chaudhuri Committee which went into the question of port employees have, in their interim report, considered only the anomalies that exist between class III and class IV employees or whether they have gone into the general question of wage structure?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may refer the hon. Member to part (a) of the reply, that is, "interim report on part of the terms of reference has been received". The remainder has to come in the course of the final report.

Shri Anthony Pillai: May I know whether an assurance was not given to the Bombay Union that the final report of the Chaudhuri Committee would be made available by the last day of last month?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I do not think any such assurance was given, but it is a fact that we told them that we will be prepared to discuss the recommendations made in the report, with them.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Minister said that the interim report will cover only certain terms. May I know what are the terms which will be covered by the final report?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think it may not be possible for me at this stage to go into the details of the recommendations which have been already covered and those which have not been covered.

Shri Tangamani: My point is, what are the terms of reference which are going to be covered in the final report.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The terms of reference, as the hon Member knows, are well known, they are, pay-scales, allowances, conditions of service, of the workers in the port and in the dockyards, holidays, etc

Mr Speaker: The hon Member wants to know the terms of reference that are to be covered in the final report, the manner in which they will be proceeded with, in the course of the second stage, etc

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already explained my difficulty I can only say that I presume that the Committee on which Shri Chaudhuri functioned went into certain items of a more urgent type and produced an interim report and those recommendations are now under consideration. The other matters which have been referred to the Committee after the final report is made. Before that, it will not be possible or desirable for me to say anything specifically about these recommendations.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that already there has been go-slow by the workers at the ports, do Government consider the desirability of short-circuiting as far as possible all those long processes of examination, consultation, consideration and all that, and avoid the repetition of the P & T cases?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as we are concerned we know that the committee first of all wanted the port labour to put their views as far back as 8th December, but unfortunately, the views came to the committee only as late as 9th April from one union and then by the end of May from the other stevedors association. We should say that the committee lost no time and they produced the interim report on the 5th July. I think we shall have to take some reasonable time for examining it. So, we have lost no time so far as this particular case is concerned.

Control on Foodgrains

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935. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Pandit D. N Tiwary:
Shri R. S Lal:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that at the last National Development Council's meeting, some of the Chief Ministers favoured some kind of control on foodgrains, and

(b) if so, the suggestions made by them and the reaction of the Union Government?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A M Thomas): (a) and (b) The question of food controls was discussed in the last meeting of the National Development Council and the general consensus of opinion of the State Governments was against the introduction of controls such as total rationing and large scale monopoly procurement. They, however, recognised the need for some control on movement and for internal procurement in surplus areas. The Government of India have accordingly introduced certain Zonal restrictions on movement and have also started some internal procurement.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that the hon Deputy Minister went to Patna and decided in consultation with the Bihar Government to have partial control of wheat, does that mean that the Government henceforward is going to have strategic control in the country wherever there is scarcity?

Shri A. M. Thomas: What was decided at Patna was that in the urban areas, there was no systematic distribution in the fair-price shops at all. So, family identity cards will be issued and the quantity will be fixed based on the strength of each family. That will be distributed through fair-price shops.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I want to know whether this system which