

Shri A. P. Jain: Fair price shops are for the sale of foodgrains and not for the purchase of grains.

Rolling Flour Mills

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*422. } **Shri Ansar Harvani:**
 } **Shri Morarka:**

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

(a) how many rolling flour mills are operating at present;

(b) what quantity of foreign imported wheat is supplied to these mills and at what rate; and

(c) at what rate these mills are selling maida, atta and suji to retailers?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) According to reports received by the Government 85 Roller Flour Mills are operating in India at present.

(b) Imported wheat from Government stocks is now supplied only to the mills outside the three wheat zones. The quantity issued amounts to about 60,000 tons per month. The price charged is Rs. 14/- per maund inclusive of the cost of bags.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 13].

Shri Ansar Harvani: The ex fill price of flour in Bombay is Rs. 15.25, in Calcutta Rs. 15.00 and in South India Rs. 13.00. May I know the reasons for the difference in prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): That is due to difference in milling charges and difference in cost of production.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know whether the Government want to open more fair price shops in any of the towns in the country?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have got about 29,000 fair price shops in different parts of the country. If they are needed anywhere we may open more.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government is aware that in the last 15 days the price of atta has gone up to the extent of four chattaks per rupee in Delhi?

Shri A. P. Jain: We are aware that the price of atta has gone up from Rs. 39 per bag to Rs. 41 and a few naya paisas per bag. This is mostly due to the seasonal fluctuation on account of rains as the arrivals of wheat from rural areas are low.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know how many shops have been opened in the villages?

Mr. Speaker: How does that arise out of the main question? The main question is about rolling flour mills operating at present; fair price shops do not arise out of that. We will go to the next question.

Fresh Water Supply in the Coastal Tracts of Kerala

*423. **Shri Kодиyan:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 691 on the 31st May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Government of India have under its consideration any schemes submitted by Kerala State to provide fresh water supply in the coastal tracts of Kerala;

(b) if so, what are those schemes; and

(c) the nature and extent of financial aid sought by the State Government in respect of these schemes?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A Scheme namely "Tube Wells in coastal areas" estimated to cost Rs. 7.20 lakhs was approved by the Government of India during the First Plan period.

(c) 50% grant-in-aid of the estimated cost of the scheme as approved by Government of India

Shri Kodiyam: May I know whether it is a fact that there is possibility of some of these works being held up owing to the difficulty of getting the necessary water pipes from abroad and, if so, may I know what steps Government have taken to overcome these difficulties?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not aware of the rural water-supply schemes being held up for want of water pipes, but recently the Minister for Health, Kerala, made a representation, I remember, and with some effort we could get for Kerala foreign exchange of Rs 38 lakhs as a special case

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether the figures given by the hon Minister are for the First Plan period or for the Second Plan period?

Shri Karmarkar: This figure of Rs 7 20 lakhs relates to the First Plan period being the cost of those schemes which have been approved for the First Five Year Plan. Many of them have not been completed. We are now making grants for the "spilled over schemes", schemes from the First Five Year Plan which have been spilled into the Second Plan

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know the amount allotted for rural water-supply under the Second Plan?

Shri Karmarkar: This year a sum of Rs 4 lakhs has been earmarked for rural water-supply in Kerala

Late Running of Trains

*434. { **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:**
Shri S. V. Ramaswami:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Wedeyar:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a lot of public criticism about the chronic

unpunctuality of trains coming to and leaving Madras;

(b) whether Government have received reports of a public meeting held in Madras on the 21st June, 1957 in this connection, and

(c) the steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes

(b) The Government have seen a press report in this connection.

(c) Punctuality drive has been intensified and sustained efforts are being made to improve the performance of trains

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: What is meant by the intensification of punctuality drive? May I know whether any results have been noticed in Madras? Certain proposals were put forward both during the discussion on Demands and also in the meeting about doubling of tracks and taking measures to overcome over-crowding and so on. May I know whether Government is taking any steps with regard to them, because "punctuality drive has been intensified" does not mean very much?

Mr. Speaker: How does over-crowding come in with punctuality?

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: I want to know the specific steps taken and the results achieved.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member wants to know, what is the kind of intensification of punctuality drive.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The punctuality drive has been intensified and the Divisional Operating and Mechanical Officers have been directed to pay sustained attention to this matter. Causes leading to unpunctual running of trains are analysed and appropriate remedial action is taken. Sustained efforts are being made to improve the performance of trains.