

The price of rice is, for Dara variety Rs. 14-8, Sela Joshi Rs. 16-8, Begmi Rs. 18, Basmati Rs. 24-8. As the House knows, the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee itself has reported that temporarily for the current year the price that is to be paid is to be fixed, for paddy between Rs. 9-4 and Rs. 11-4 per maund, and for rice between Rs. 15 and Rs. 17 per maund. So that, compared with the prices fixed by the Foodgrains Committee, this price is a reasonable one.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know why two types of procurement are in force in Andhra, requisitioning as well as voluntary purchase? And may I know the rates fixed for requisitioning as well as for voluntary purchase?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The price is the same. The only thing is when people are prepared to give on a voluntary basis we will accept from them. There is no difference in the price. As regards the present price in Andhra, from 14-9-57, we have fixed prices at controlled rates and the rates are: Fine rice Rs. 19-8, 20-4, 20-12, 21-8, and 19; and for coarse variety, Rs. 17, 17-8, 17-8, 18-4, 18-8, 17-8, 18-4 for various varieties

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question. It is only yesterday or the day before that we had the Food Debate.

Class IV Railway Employees

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*847. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:**
 { **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan**
 { **Shri Thimmiah:**
 { **Shri Nardoo Snatak:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1280 on the 29th August, 1957, and state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to review channels of pro-

motion of Class IV Railway employees within their own Class and to Class III have submitted its report; and

(b) if not, when the same will be submitted?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Committee has informed the Government that it would be able to complete its work by the end of February, 1958.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Committee issued any questionnaire and called any witnesses; and, if so, what was the nature of the questionnaire and what kind of witnesses have been examined?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Committee issued a questionnaire about August, and they are still examining witnesses. They have already examined a large number of witnesses. They are meeting people from railway unions and any other persons who are prepared to come forward and give evidence.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether this Committee has so far met only the representatives of the recognised unions or even of unrecognised unions?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The Committee actually issued the questionnaire only to the recognised unions. But the Committee has had no objection in meeting people from unrecognised unions in their individual capacity.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know whether they have been meeting the representatives of the unrecognised unions who are office-bearers of the union or only those who are employees?

Mr. Speaker: That is, office-bearers who are non-employees.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I think they have been meeting only the railway employees.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if they have completed their tour of the various divisional headquarters etc. and are now drafting their report?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, Sir, I do not think they have completed their tour. They propose to tour the country in four shifts, and it will be for a fortnight at a time that they will be out. They will come to headquarters, and then after a short while they will go back again. Like that they will make four different trips. This is necessary because six out of the nine members are officials who have to do their normal duties in addition to the duties on the Committee.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the questionnaire that was issued was sent to Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures also; and, if not, why not?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It was up to the Committee to decide to whom to send the questionnaire. I cannot answer on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister will pass on this suggestion to the Committee.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir.

Trunk Telephone Policy

*848. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been manifold increase in the trunk telephone traffic in recent years;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revise its trunk telephone expansion projects in the light of the increase in trunk traffic;

(c) if so, whether Government have prepared any scheme for the same; and

(d) if so, the cost involved in implementing that scheme?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 76].

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : इस स्टेटमेंट को देखने से ज्ञात होता है कि वार्षिक कठिनाइयों के चलते ट्रंक ट्रेफिक के लिये जितनी रकम की आवश्यकता है उस की पूर्ति नहीं होगी क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो योजना का "हार्ड कोर" है उसको भली भाँति कार्यान्वित करने के लिए ट्रंक ट्रेफिक का पूरा होना आवश्यक नहीं है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : जी नहीं उतना सम्भव नहीं होगा क्योंकि लगभग १ लाख ८० हजार टेलीफोन का प्लान में प्रोग्राम रक्खा गया है और हम अगर बहुत कोशिश करेंगे तो शायद ७५ हजार तक पहुँच जायेंगे ।

National Welfare Board

*849. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 44 on the 16th July, 1957, and state:

(a) whether the special sub-committee of National Welfare Board for seafarers have submitted their report about the scheme for social security for seamen;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations; and

(c) when action will be initiated for enforcing the same?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Not yet.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know when the report is expected to be submitted?