

foreign capital participating in Indian shipping? In view of that, how much of the freight earnings of shipping is going to be utilised for buying more tonnage?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** There is a large body of opinion in the Indian shipping interests against foreign participation in Indian shipping. There is a section of opinion however against that too—that means, this latter section favours foreign participation.

#### Loans to Jhumias

\*1144. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been given by Government to the jhumias in Tripura this year as loan popularly known as dadan;

(b) if so, the amount distributed so far, family-wise; and

(c) the rate of interest, either per month or per annum for such loan required to be paid to Government?

**The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) Yes

(b) Rs. 1,62,000/- at the maximum rate of Rs. 50/- per family

(c) 4% per annum

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Is the Government intending to continue the advancement of such loans for a further year?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** There is a scheme being worked out in the Home Ministry.

**Shri Dasaratha Deb:** May I know whether the Government proposes to advance such loans through co-operative societies or banks?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is done both ways—by the Government and through co-operatives also.

#### Consumption of Rice

\*1147. **Shri Kumaran:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be

pleased to state whether Government have any scheme to reduce the consumption of rice to the minimum by changing food habits of the people?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** The consumption of wheat is being encouraged in the rice eating areas by issuing wheat freely in these areas. In Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other important consuming centres and areas, the quantity of rice supplied to a consumer from Fair Price Shops has been or is being reduced and the deficiency would be made up by supplying wheat. The State Governments have been asked to encourage reduced consumption of rice in all possible ways.

**Shri Kumaran:** May I know whether Government is aware that the Congress party in Kerala is carrying on a vigorous campaign against the State Government's programme for changing the food habits of the people, especially against macaroni and whether this Government has done anything to dissuade their own party men in Kerala from indulging in such ill-advised propaganda?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is the other way, Sir.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Sir, on a point of order. How does this question arise—this Government being a party to some negotiation or agitation going on there, and this Government advising the Congress Party there?

**Mr. Speaker:** I understand the point of order. I entirely agree with Shri Murthy. This does not arise out of this question at all. The question is: how far the Governments are carrying on a propaganda in favour of an alternative cereal in place of rice? The hon. Member is giving information to the House that the Kerala Government is doing very good work and that some other Party is obstructing. Are we to go on like this? No. I rule it out.

**Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** May I know whether the Central Government is taking any steps to popularise

macaroni in rice eating areas as a substitute for rice?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Some experiments were conducted in Kerala and we have got a report about the results of such experiments. The Central Government is considering it and if it is found advisable, the Central Government would be prepared to assist in the putting up of a plant there.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** The Central Government has given a little subsidy in popularising macaroni.

**Dr. Sushila Nayar:** The hon. Minister stated that efforts are being made to educate the people in change of food habits and eating non-cereal foods or other cereals instead of rice. The Women's Food Council was created for that purpose. Is it correct that the Central Government has stopped giving all assistance to the Women's Food Council and, if so, does not Government think it desirable that non-official organisations should also take up this work of educating public opinion?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I quite agree that non-official assistance should be taken, and non-officials should do whatever they possibly can. We want to seek their co-operation. But, so far as the stopping of assistance to this particular body is concerned, the decision was taken sometime ago, and after taking into account all the facts.

**Shri C. E. Pattabhi Raman:** Are the Government taking steps in the matter of publicity so far as wheat dishes are concerned especially in South India?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The Government are taking necessary steps. The Central Government has issued a circular to various State Governments to popularise other cereals food, mainly wheat dishes, and the State Governments are trying their level best to see that wheat dishes and other non-rice dishes are popularised.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Is it a fact that there is general resistance by all

people in Kerala irrespective of political opinions, to substitute Macaroni for rice and, therefore, the Kerala Government is pressing for more rice from the Central Government?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is again a matter of opinion, Sir. In fact, Kerala is rather unwilling to take any other substitute food other than rice; that is a fact.

**Shri Punnoose:** Am I to understand from the Deputy Minister's reply that the scheme for starting the macaroni plant is not yet finalised?

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : सरकार ने जो चावल कम खाने की नीति अपनाई है, और इस सम्बन्ध में जो पत्र जारी किये हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने और सूबे की सरकारों ने उस पर क्या धमल किया है और उस का क्या फल हुआ ?

श्री प्र० प्र० जैन : यह तो इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में ही बता दिया गया है कि इस बारे में क्या किया जा रहा है ।

श्री म० सा० द्विवेदी : आपने यह नहीं बताया कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने जो कदम उठाये हैं उन के फलस्वरूप कितना चावल बचाया गया और सूबों में उस के सम्बन्ध में क्या किया जा रहा है ।

श्री प्र० प्र० जैन : यह कहना बड़ा मुश्किल है कि कितना चावल बचाया जा रहा है ।

#### Second Ship Building Yard

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 \*1149. { Shri Vasudevan Nair:  
 Shri Raghunath Singh:  
 Shri Vajpayee:  
 Shri Mohan Swarup:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.K. Mission that is to make recommendations about the location of the Second Ship-building Yard is visiting all the places visited by the original team of British experts;