

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Commission will go into all these questions. But according to the principles adopted earlier for classification, Madurai does not qualify for classification as 'B'.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The question of upgrading some cities for purposes of payment of house rent allowance and compensatory allowance was under examination of Government sometime back. May I know if that idea is given up now?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Yes, it was originally being considered by a committee of officials, but when the Commission was appointed, naturally all the questions have been referred to the Commission.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Although any compensatory allowance may not have been decided upon, has there been any suggestion as to providing some sort of an accommodation for the P. & T. Staff in these towns where it is difficult to get accommodation?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This question does not strictly arise out of this question. This is about the classification of certain cities for certain allowances. I can assure the hon. Member that the question of accommodation is always kept under review.

Shri Tangamani: The First Pay Commission laid down certain criteria.

Mr. Speaker: From the trend of the supplementary questions asked by him, he wants to convince the hon. Minister to take a decision immediately. That question has been referred to the Commission.

Shri Tangamani: So far as Madurai is concerned, even in the First Pay Commission, they have laid down certain criteria as to how it should be decided.

Mr. Speaker: Then why were they not implemented? The hon. Member must put that question. Is it not a fact that these were decided so far as Madurai is concerned? What is the need for the Second Pay Commission now? These should be the questions.

Shri Tangamani: The recommendations of the First Pay Commission have not been implemented so far as Madurai is concerned.

Shri Humayun Kabir: My answer to the first part of the question as formulated by you, Sir, would be that according to the provisions laid down by the First Pay Commission, Madurai would not have qualified for classification as B. With regard to the second part, I may say that as soon as the Commission submits its recommendation, action will be taken.

Shri Tangamani: He has not answered the point.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered. The hon. Member is under the mistaken impression that Madurai has already been provided and that it comes within the recommendations of the First Pay Commission. The hon. Minister differs and he says 'No' and therefore, this matter has been placed before the Second Pay Commission. The hon. Member wants to give reasons as to why here and now Madurai should be upgraded. That has been referred to the Commission. I am not going to allow any question on this. The hon. Member is a lawyer and he should know. How can the Minister take a census? He will think before he puts a question again.

Shri Tangamani: I am pursuing this question for the last so many sessions. (Interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is pursuing but it ought not to be forgotten that this is Question Hour.

खाद्य समस्या

*४४४. { श्री मोहन स्वयं
श्री त्रि० क० चौधरी

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीकी मन्त्रि श्री इजरा बेन्सन ने, जो ३१ अक्टूबर को दिल्ली आने वाले थे, भारत की खाद्य

समस्या पर भारत सरकार से विचार-
विमर्श किया ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस बार्ता का क्या
परिणाम निकला ?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and
Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) Mr. Benson took note of our
requirements and we hope we shall
hear in due course what the U.S.
authorities are able to do.

Shri Vajpayee: Sir, on a point of
order. The question has been tabled
in Hindi and the reply should be in
the same language.

**The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-
markar):** He raises the objection in
English!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members
ought not to be too impatient. There
are a number of hon. Ministers. Hindi
is not their mother tongue and they
are not very well acquainted with that
language. They have made attempts
to read Hindi answers. Then, when
they read in a language which is not
understandable and with different pro-
nunciation, hon. Members themselves
ask them what they said and request
them to answer the question in
English.

Evidently, he is not able to read the
Hindi answer. So, shall we put him
out as a Minister? What can be done?
I would only appeal to the hon. Mem-
bers. I am anxious that Hindi must
spread in this country as quickly as
possible but a kind of so much of
urgency imposed upon the people sets
that back. Every hon. Member knows
and I also know what happened with
regard to Sanskrit. It was a North
Indian language. I can claim that in
South India there are as good scholars
in Sanskrit as in the North. There
was no agency and no Government to
compel it. This kind of pressure being
brought to bear again and again ought
not to be done. It is not Hindi class
for which people have come. They

want to discuss and understand each
other's arguments. We are engaged
in a serious discussion. Whatever
decision is taken affects not only 300
millions. It is growing and today it
is 380 millions. Let us not stick to
this language or that language. The
substance of what is said must be
understood.

Shri Vajpayee: There are many
Members who do not understand
English.

Mr. Speaker: I know hon. Member
can speak and actually speaks first-
class English. Shri Mohan Swarup.

Shri Mohan Swarup: No supple-
mentary.

Shri Panigrahi: What is the total
requirements of foodgrains that we
have asked for from the United States
of America?

**The Minister of Food and Agricul-
ture (Shri A. P. Jain):** We have sug-
gested a certain figure but it is not in
public interest to disclose that figure.

Shri Panigrahi: We had one agree-
ment with the U.S.A. for 361 million
dollars worth of food surplus to be
supplied. Have we drawn all that?

Shri A. M. Thomas: A quantity of
six lakhs of tons remains.

Accident in Kottayam-Quilon Railway Line

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*445. { Shri Kumaran:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be
pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances surrounding
the accident that resulted in the tragic
death of workers who were working
in a tunnel in the newly constructed
Kottayam-Quilon Railway line on
the 20th October, 1957; and

(b) whether the authorities super-
vising the work were in any way res-
ponsible for the accident?