

has been sanctioned is for the 25 per cent levy which has been imposed by the Central Government under the Essential Commodities Act, or is it an amount in excess of that?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is for the overall internal procurement; of course, it is now mainly being utilised for purchase under the 25 per cent levy.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that a serious discontent prevails among the people of West Bengal over the procurement policy of the West Bengal Government; and, if so, whether the Central Government has advised the West Bengal Government to appoint a committee to enquire into the matter and find out the truth?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Sir, the matter was discussed in detail on the floor of the House and the Minister also did reply to all the points raised by my hon. friend. The Central Government does not propose to advise the State Government to appoint any committee of enquiry.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** In regard to this amount which has been sanctioned, may I know whether any stipulation has been made for the price at which rice is to be procured?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Yes. We have fixed the prices in respect of various districts like Burdwan, Birbhum etc. We have fixed Rs. 19/8 for the fine variety, Rs. 17/4 for the medium variety and Rs. 16/- for the coarse variety. For the District of Dinajpur we have fixed Rs. 19/8 for the fine variety, Rs. 17/4 for the medium and Rs. 16/- for the coarse variety.

**Rail-Sea Co-ordination  
Committee**

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\*1461. { Shri Jhulan Sinha:  
Shri Heda:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer

to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1377 on the 19th December, 1957 and state the decisions since taken with regard to the implementation of the other recommendations of the Rail-Sea Co-ordination Committee?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** A statement indicating the present position in regard to the various recommendations of the Committee is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 118.]

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** In view of the importance of the subject and the extraordinary delay in the implementation of the recommendations may I enquire how out of the 24 recommendations made by the Committee only six or seven have been accepted and the rest have been under consideration for all this period?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The Committee was appointed as far back as June, 1955. The report was submitted only as late as April, 1957. Out of the 24 recommendations that have been made by the Committee, action has been taken in regard to six of them. They are matters concerning fixation of freight rates and things like that. The most important matter on which action has been taken is with regard to the grant of concessional terms for loans advanced for purchase of ships for operation in the coastal trade. Each one of these recommendations required a decision on policy matters such as reservation of a particular type of traffic or cargo for coastal shipping. Therefore, it will naturally take time, and I think the decisions have been taken reasonably quickly.

**Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman:** May I know whether road traffic also will be brought under the purview of the Rail-Sea Co-ordination Committee?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** May I just refer the hon. Member to the terms of reference of the Committee which say: "Development of coastal shipping on sound lines and need for

avoiding overlapping between two forms of transport".

**Shri Heda:** In the statement it is said that the Government have decided to start a non-lapsable shipping development fund. May I know whether this fund has started functioning, and, if so, how much it has become so far?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We took a decision only very recently. In the current year I think a provision of Rs. 1 crore has been made for setting up a nucleus of this fund. I think in the course of the Plan period this fund will amount to about Rs. 10 crores which will be available for acquisition of shipping tonnage.

**Shri Heda:** In view of the fact that about 15 suggestions are still under consideration, may I know whether they are really being considered or this is only another way of saying that they have been safely deposited in cold storage?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Two have not been accepted and the balance 13 are all under consideration. I do not think the inference that they have been consigned to cold storage would be right or would be fair to the Ministry itself.

**Shri Tangamani:** One of the recommendations is that the Coastal Conference should evolve rationalised sailing schedules with a view to ensuring regular sailings and calls at as many ports as possible. May I know whether such a conference will be called soon?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The recommendation as it is will be given due consideration and a conference, if it is needed, will be called.

**Shri Tangamani:** I want to know whether such a conference is going to be convened in the near future.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** In the statement we have said that the matter is under consideration. I would not like to commit myself before the consideration is finalised.

#### Movement of Orissa Iron Ore

\*1462. **Shri Kumbhar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government have represented to the Government of India to spare sufficient number of wagons for quick transport of Orissa iron ore from Jajpur Road Station to Cuttack or Chawdwar Stations and then to export it to foreign country easily through Pardip Port;

(b) if so, how many wagons have been spared for that purpose; and

(c) if none, the reason therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Yes.

(b) Against a total indent of 49 wagons, full allotment and supplies were made.

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri Panigrahi:** Besides asking for additional wagons, may I know whether the Government of Orissa has asked the Railway Ministry for any other help for moving iron ore from the mines there?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** As far as I am aware, this was the only demand made and that has been met in full. If there are any other demands, I am sure there will not be much difficulty in meeting those demands.

**Shri V. C. Shukla:** May I know whether the Government have received any such request from the M.P. Mineral Industries Association or the Madhya Pradesh Government?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** That is a separate question.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Is it not a fact that a request was made for doubling the railway line from Jajpur Road to Cuttack in order to enable the