

exempt foodgrains completely from such tax or fee. The revenue consideration was mainly the reason for the States not agreeing to the Centre's advice.

(b) No, Sir.

Shri N. E. Munniamy: May I know the total amount likely to be lost by the proposal to exempt foodgrains from sales tax? What are the other sources of revenue thought of to compensate for the loss?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: This pertains to State revenue. The idea that foodgrains should not be taxed came up in the National Development Council. It was proposed that in view of the rise in food prices, there should not be any tax. The Chief Ministers said that they would consider it. They have referred back to us saying that they were not in a position to accept this idea. That is the position.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: What were the reasons advanced by the States for not accepting this proposal?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: Revenue considerations.

Shri Damani: May I know whether this matter was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference and if not, whether it is going to be included in the agenda for the next Conference?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I have said that it was discussed in the National Development Council.

Steel Allotment to Orissa

*1695. **Dr. Samantsinhhar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel, be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of iron and steel that were allotted to Orissa in each quarter of 1956-57 and the actual delivery made to the State against their allotments;

(b) what steps Government of India propose to take to ensure that the allotments made to Orissa are delivered in future;

(c) whether Government are aware that the only two foundries in Orissa have been forced to close down on account of the failure to supply billets and pig irons to these foundries in 1957; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to remove these difficulties in future.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Allotment was made on an annual basis for 1956-57. The total quantity, of steel allotted to consumers in Orissa State was 24,840 tons against which 12,547 tons were despatched.

(b) Steps have been taken to increase indigenous production and subject to availability of foreign exchange, it is proposed to import steel to augment indigenous supply.

(c) This information is not available.

(d) When shortage of billets or pig iron was brought to notice, steps were taken to expedite supplies by according priority. The supply position of pig iron is expected to ease considerably in 1958-59 and that of billets by 1960, as a result of the expansion programmes of TISCO and IISCO, and the production in Steel Plants in the Public Sector.

Shri Supakar: What is the total demand of steel in Orissa State and what percentage was supplied?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got the figures with regard to the total demand. I have already given the allocation that was made and the actual supply that was made. The actual allocation will be somewhat smaller than the demand in the case of all the States. It is not the case that Orissa was treated differently from the other States.

Shri Supakar: May I know if the supply of steel and iron is far short of the demand in regard to this particular State as compared to other States of India?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the demand in all the States is of an order which could not be met with. The case of Orissa does not differ from that of the others in this matter.

Shri Panigrahi: The allocation was about 24,000 tons and the actual lift was 12,000 tons. May I know the reasons?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Short supply.

Shri Supakar: By what time shall we be able to meet the demands of the entire States in India so far as steel and iron materials are concerned?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is a bigger question but it is hoped that when these new steel plants in the public sector go into production and when the expansion of the two in the private sector is completed, the actual production will meet the requirements. But the demands may grow and we may have to think of increasing our production.

Shri Supakar: One question more.

Mr. Speaker: It does not lead us anywhere. The hon. Member knows. Demand goes on increasing as we go on producing.

Shri Supakar: I want to know what amount of blackmarketing is prevalent in India.

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately that question does not arise out of this question, however good it might be.

Sports Stadia

*1006. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sports stadia proposed to be constructed during the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount allotted for the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) No specific number has been fixed.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri B. S. Murthy: On what basis will these stadia be distributed all over India?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: On the basis of a grant of 50 per cent.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What steps are being taken in case the State Governments do not make use of the money allotted for this purpose?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The States must also play the game. When the Central Governments meets 50 per cent expenditure, the States should also meet 50 per cent of the expenditure.

Shri Thimmalah: Is this expenditure met under the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur sports scheme?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: No, Sir. It has nothing to do with that.

Shri Vishwanatha Reddy: May I know whether the National Sports Club of India has taken up the construction of a stadium in Madras, and whether Madras has asked for assistance from the Centre? If so, how much assistance has been granted?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The hon. Member is interested in a particular club. He will have to give me notice. I will be very glad to answer that question.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: In view of the fact that under the National Sports Club stadium scheme, South India is the only place which has not got a stadium—Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi already having stadia—would the Government consider constructing a stadium there?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: Under this scheme it is proposed to give grants if proposals are coming forward. We have started giving grants and approving the schemes.