

found that a majority of the workmen have not opted for pension. May I know whether a discussion will be held with the representatives of the various railwaymen's unions and federations with a view to see that the Pension Scheme is a successful one and its implications are also discussed?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think there is any necessity for such a discussion. The Scheme, as has been finalised, is before the railway employees and also those who take interest in the trade unions of the railway workers. If their objective is to examine whether this Scheme is really more beneficial to the railway employees, especially to the less paid railway employees, they should educate the workers and also advise them to opt for the Scheme which will be more beneficial to them.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether the Southern Railway Labour Union after their conference have sent a comprehensive scheme for the amendment of this particular Pension Scheme?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have no knowledge.

Shri Tangamani: rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question. The hon. Minister has already stated that it is the same Scheme that applies to all other Government servants. Evidently, hon. Members want to have it changed and modified. They have suggested it openly and indirectly, but the hon. Minister is adamant about his own attitude.

Shri Tangamani: There is one more point, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I always allow four supplementary questions to be put by the hon. Member; even then he is not satisfied. He must be satisfied with the various other questions.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You have allowed only one question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: One to Shri Banerjee and four to Shri Tangamani between them five. We will now go to the next question.

Procurement of Rice in Andhra Pradesh

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*1719. { **Shri Rajagopala Rao:**
Shri Rami Reddy:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) what are the Districts in Andhra Pradesh declared by Government as 'Specified Areas' for the procurement of rice;

(b) what is the total quantity of rice and paddy offered by the millers in Andhra Pradesh since the revision of the prices of rice in December, 1957;

(c) whether there are any offers from the rice-millers from the Districts other than the 'Specified Areas' for the sale of rice; and

(d) what is the basis on which the price of paddy and rice is fixed?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 110.]

Shri Rajagopala Rao: May I know whether the prices are fixed in the interest of the consumers or in the interest of the producers?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We are not fixing prices either at the request of the consumer or the producer; we fix prices having regard to the conditions existing now, and also not to prejudice either the consumer or the producer.

Mr. Speaker: Both the consumer and the producer.

Shri Rajagopala Rao: May I know whether the prices were fixed in accordance with the recommendations of the State Government or as recommended by some experts?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, questions have come up before this House off and on. The procurement price that we paid in 1952-53 was only Rs. 14.83, whereas we are now paying Rs. 15, Rs. 15/8 and Rs. 16/8 and higher amount for finer varieties.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether Government are receiving whatever is being offered to them by rice millers or they are themselves going into the market and procuring rice? May I also know whether the Government of Andhra has made any recommendations in regard to the prices; and, if so, what was the decision of the Government of India and why did they not accept their recommendations?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We are both procuring as well as requisitioning. We mainly procure from millers. Of course, the Andhra Government has made some recommendations. We have carefully considered them, but we have indicated our inability to raise the prices at this stage.

Shri Ranga: Is it not a fact that since 1952 the prices of other commodities have gone up and the value of money itself has gone down; and, if so, in the light of that, why is it that the Government of India is still harping upon the level of prices in 1952?

Shri A. M. Thomas: For foodgrains we take 1952-53 as the base year—100 as the base. On that you will find that it will be about 101 or 102. As I already indicated, in 1952-53 the price was Rs. 14.83 whereas we are now paying Re. 1 and Rs. 1/8 more than that.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): May I add a word, Sir, with your permission? The hon. Member would be aware

that the Asoka Mehta Committee has very carefully gone into the question and have suggested prices ranging between Rs. 15 and Rs. 17 for coarse-rice. It may be that the prices of other commodities have gone up, but after taking into consideration everything we have tried to fix a remunerative price for the farmer.

Shri Ranga: Why is it that the Government of India insist upon fixing the prices unilaterally, without consulting the Andhra Government, without getting their co-operation and, also, after reasoning with them?

Shri A. P. Jain: Well, Sir, it is not correct to say that we have not discussed these problems with the Andhra Government—sometimes we have agreed, at other times we have not agreed.

Shri Heda: May I know how this procurement price fixed by the Centre compares with the existing market prices, on the one hand, and the procurement price of Kerala Government in Andhra Pradesh? If the latter two prices are higher, is not the central procurement price ineffective?

Shri A. P. Jain: In the regions where we procure, we generally declare control prices. All the transactions have to take place at the control prices, and the Kerala Government is also buying at control prices.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: With regard to the answer to part (c) of the question, in view of the fact that a large quantity of paddy is available in the Nellore delta area, may I know whether any special efforts are being made by the Government to institute procurement in that area?

Shri A. P. Jain: That suggestion was made before, and I have been considering it. I am looking into the question as to whether we can extend the procurement operations in the Nellore delta region.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The Central Government and some of the State Governments are procuring rice from

Andhra. May I know whether there is a proposal from the Kerala Government that the Government should not procure rice at the very same place and that they should concentrate on separate areas, and what the attitude the Central Government is to that suggestion?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have not been able to grasp the question fully.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the Kerala Government has represented to the Central Government that separate areas may be allotted to the various Governments and not the same area, for the purchase.

Shri A. P. Jain: The Food Minister of Kerala saw me sometime ago and he discussed the food policy including the procurement in Andhra in detail. I told him that we will give preference to Kerala in buying rice at the control rates and if they enter into any contract with any miller for the purchase, we will not buy or procure from that miller or enter competition with the Kerala Government. So, there is full adjustment. There is no difficulty.

Shri Rajagopala Rao: In the matter of the purchase of rice, why not the Government of India request, through the Andhra Government, for the purchase?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have set up a machinery. Our work is going on well.

Japanese Method of Paddy Cultivation in Manipur

*1720. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japanese method of paddy cultivation has yielded successful results in Manipur; and

(b) if so, why the method has not been adopted by the agriculturists in Manipur?.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b).

Though experiments conducted on the Japanese method of paddy cultivation have given higher yields in Manipur there has not been appreciable progress with regard to the area covered. This is due to lack of communication facilities and inadequate number of trained field personnel as compared to other States. The Administration has laid out 106 demonstration plots, but the progress is likely to be only gradual.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether the Japanese manuring and cultural practices have also been experimented there and, if so, with what result?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In Manipur already, the system that they are following is better than in any other State. Generally, the production goes up to 35 maunds of paddy per acre, whereas, by the Japanese method, it increases only by 8 to 10 maunds. So, the people of Manipur are already practising better methods of cultivation. That is one of the reasons why they are not so much eager to take up this new method.

Shri Jadhav: How much area is under the cultivation of rice in Manipur?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: 2,22,000 acres.

Transfer of Management of Hirakud Project to Orissa Government

*1721. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Central Government for transferring the responsibility of control and management of Hirakud Project to the Orissa Government;

(b) whether the terms and conditions for such transfer have been prepared; and

(c) the broad nature of such terms and conditions?