

Shri Hathi: I think the Agriculture Ministry is looking into that.

Shri Ghosal: May I know whether the Union Boards in West Bengal have refused to accept the D.V.C. project power because of the higher cost?

Shri Hathi: I think the D.V.C. supplies power in bulk. The retailing is done by the licence or the State Government.

Shri Fanigrabi: In which of the States is electricity in greater use for irrigation purposes? May I know whether the U.P. Government has reduced its rate on electricity?

Shri Hathi: The rates existing in the U.P. Government at present are: the maximum 11 annas and the minimum is 2·6 annas for domestic purposes. So far as industrial power is concerned, the maximum is 5·7 annas and the minimum is 1 anna. For agriculture, the maximum is 1·5 annas and the minimum is 1 anna.

Shri Tangamani: We were told that none of the State Governments has replied to the suggestions made by the Central Government. The hon. Minister has also given us the prevailing rates in the U.P. and Punjab. May I know what is the prevailing rate in Madras so far as irrigation is concerned?

Shri Hathi: If we have to go state-wise—of course, I have the figures for each State. In Madras, it is 7·8 annas maximum and 3 annas minimum for domestic purposes; for small-scale industries, the maximum is 8 annas and the minimum is 9 annas; for irrigation, the maximum is 6·6 annas and 3 annas is the minimum. That is the range.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may lay it on the Table of the House.

Shri Hathi: I will; I do not mind.

Mr. Speaker: I would also say,—I have thought about it—wherever hon. Members write to me to send copies of a particular answer, I will charge

a nominal fee. Regular official records will come later on and they will be circulated to hon. Members. If, in addition, they want immediately any answer, I will prescribe a fee. Hon. Members may write to me and I will supply to it them even the same evening. Not only that. Hon. Members who make excellent speeches may write to me wanting copies of those speeches. I shall try to give them as many copies as they like provided they pay a particular amount. They may send them round to their constituencies. That I shall do. Hon. Members, therefore, will make good speeches and then try to get copies of them.

Shri D. C. Sharma: All Members make excellent speeches.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is such a system of charging any rate existing elsewhere?

Mr. Speaker: I understand that it exists in England. Is it not so?

Shri Jaipal Singh: No.

Mr. Speaker: I have read somewhere. Any how, let me start it. What is the harm, if it is convenient? I would like to take the credit of starting it myself. Why should I not do so? I am prepared to help every hon. Member to discharge his duties to his constituency to the best of his ability and make him well known in his constituency. Once again, God willing, he may be returned to this House. Next question.

Shri Thimmaiah: A page should not cost more than one Naya Paisa.

Wheat from U.S.A.

{ Shri Ram Krishan:
*1785. { Shri Bhogji Bhal:
{ Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement with U.S.A. for purchase of about 4·5 lakh tons of

wheat or wheat flour instead of cotton has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the main terms of the agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). It was merely a diversion of unutilised funds from cotton to wheat under the existing agreement. No fresh agreement was necessary.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know the total quantity of wheat or wheat flour purchased this year under this agreement?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The total quantity that is estimated to be purchased comes to 36.65 lakh tons, that is, 225 million dollars worth. Up to 15th April, we have shipped about 33.88 lakh tons. Now, 2.77 lakh tons remain to be shipped.

Shri Damani: What amount was originally contemplated for wheat and cotton to be imported from the U.S.A. under P.L. 480 and what quantity had been received at the time when the decision was taken to get more wheat instead of cotton?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Under the original agreement, we were to import about 200 million dollars worth of wheat. Now, it has been modified to 225 million dollars worth. This modification has made in February, 1958.

Shri Tyagi: What is the landed cost of American wheat in India, per maund?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The F.O.B. cost per maund ranges from Rs. 10 to Rs. 11. Freight come to Rs. 1.9-5 per maund at present.

Shri Damani: May I know, in view of the improved position of wheat and shortage of long staple cotton, whether the Government will consider the import of more cotton?

Shri A. M. Thomas: According to the original agreement, we ought to have imported 70 million dollars worth of cotton. According to the modified agreement, we are to import 42 million dollars worth under P.L. 480.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister stated freight separately. May I know whether Rs. 10 or Rs. 11 include these freight charges or this is excluding freight charges?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Freight is extra. It comes to Rs. 1-9-5.

Seth Govind Das: The hon. Minister said that the rate we have to pay is Rs. 10 or 11. Why is it being sold at such a high rate in India?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There are so many other charges, such as transport charges etc.

Seth Govind Das: How much does it come to?

Shri Tyagi: At what price is it being sold?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Rs. 14 per maund.

Palar River Waters Dispute

*1786. Shri N. E. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint from Madras Government about the short or non-supply of waters from river Palar as a result of construction of innumerable tanks, bunds and circuits by the Mysore Government in the upper regions of the River; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 139.]

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know whether it is not a fact that certain expert engineers have visited the Bethamangalam tank and other tanks