

Shri A. M. Thomas: We must also understand that, as far as the production in the deficit States are concerned, in Kerala the production has been satisfactory, in Mysore it has been satisfactory and in Madras in Tanjore and Tirunelveli Districts we had a bumper crop, so much so, naturally, larger quantities would not move.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Deputy Minister stated that after the introduction of the zonal system an average of only 1000 tons per month is being supplied to Madras State although the deficit will be to the extent of 10,000 tons. May I know whether the Government will take steps to purchase rice in Andhra and sell it at subsidized rates?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It may not be necessary, because Madras could normally manage with its internal production. It is because of heavy draw from Tanjore to Kerala that Madras becomes deficit in certain seasons. Since the rice crop in Tanjore has been very satisfactory, even inspite of the heavy draw to Kerala the prices in Tanjore are ruling at a reasonable level, and it may not be necessary to continue fair price shops and supply rice to Madras through fair price shops.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In view of the fact that small quantities of rice are moving from Andhra to the deficit areas, is there any complaint from producers and millers that large quantities are remaining unsold and accumulated in the State?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As the hon. House is aware, according to the latest figures that I have got we have procured about 1,53,249 tons as on 21-2-1958; that is, from 31st December we have procured 78,564 tons and since 1-1-1958, 74,685 tons. Hon. Members are aware that there have been complaints that there are large-scale smugglings from Andhra to neighbouring States. We have informed the State Governments about this matter. The Andhra merchants were also

expecting that there would be an upward revision of prices. We have definitely told them that there would not be any upward revision.

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether prices fixed by State Governments in southern zone are not adequate and as such smuggling has increased; if so, what action Government contemplates to check this smuggling and give proper prices to the growers?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to fixation of prices, as far as the State of Mysore from which the hon. Member comes is concerned, the prices have been fixed in consultation with the State Government.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question—Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Question No. 577.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Sir, I request that Question 589 may be answered along with this.

Mr. Speaker: I find that Shri Surendranath Dwivedy is not present. Is Shri B. C. Mullick present? I find that he is also absent. Then we will take up the next question, 578.

कनाडा से गेहूँ

*५७८. डा० राव सुभग सिंह : क्या साक्ष तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कोलम्बो योजना के अन्तर्गत कनाडा से इस वर्ष कितना गेहूँ आन की आशा है ?

साक्ष तथा कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री डा० न० बालन) : लगभग १ लाख ५ हजार टन ।

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the price at which this wheat is bought?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The funds are made available by the Government of Canada on a grant basis. It may not be quite in the public interest to give out the price at this stage, because

we are carrying on negotiations with other countries also.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether, in view of the fact that there is a possibility of a very good wheat crop this time, there is any reason to believe that there will be a downward revision of the quantity to be imported now from abroad?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is no scope for a downward revision. We have contracted with Canada; on a deferred payment basis, to import about four lakhs of tons of wheat; on the Colombo Plan basis we are importing about 115,000 tons. More than 100,000 tons have already arrived and it is only a little more quantity that remains.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Just now, the hon. Deputy Minister said that they have already entered into a contract for four lakhs of tons of wheat from Canada, and to a previous supplementary about the price, he said it was not proper to disclose that in public interest as negotiations are in progress with other countries. The very fact that a contract has been entered into with Canada implies that some price must have already been fixed. It should thus be mentioned.

Mr. Speaker: Negotiations are proceeding.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Already, there is a contract, which means finalisation of the contract for some price. Some price must be the basic price over which the contract has been entered into.

Mr. Speaker: That is the reasoning of the hon. Member. They have entered into an agreement for the purchase and they are negotiating for the price. So, there does not seem to be anything unreasonable.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: That is the way—

Mr. Speaker: That is the way in which Government have proceeded.

Shri F. E. Patel: Then the price of wheat at our godowns in our coun-

try may be less than our local wheat price.

Shri A. M. Thomas: It would not be less.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: In view of the fact that we are not going to cut our import and there are chances of a buffer crop of wheat, may I know whether Government is satisfied that our godown arrangement is more than sufficient?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Of course, there is the problem of storage. We are taking as many godowns as possible for storing the wheat which we are going to import.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister replied that the price of the wheat purchased—to be paid for—the Canada wheat, may not be less than the ruling price here.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Will it be more or less?

Mr. Speaker: It is a further question. I am going to the next Question.

फार्म नताओं की अमेरिका यात्रा

*५७६. श्री सखू वाग्हे : क्या कृषि तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कृषि फार्म नताओं का कोई दल संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका जाने वाला है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन की यात्रा का उद्देश्य क्या है ?

सहकार मंत्री (डा० एं० जे० देसायुक्त) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) (१) फार्म और सामुदायिक जीवन, संगठन और उनकी कार्यवाहियों का प्रबलिकन ।

(२) ग्रामीण विकास में फार्म संगठनों, सहकारी संगठनों और अन्य समूहों के कार्यों