

This does not come under the Railways Act. It will come under the Indian Fatal Accidents Act of 1855.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: In view of the fact that this is a passenger train and a death has taken place, under the rule whenever a passenger train is involved a death takes place, it is only the Chief Inspector of Railways who holds the enquiry.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This was a goods train; not a passenger train.

Procurement of Rice from Andhra

*901. **Shri Parulekar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have stopped requisitioning of rice in the four coastal districts of Andhra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what was the estimated surplus of rice in those districts in April, 1958; and

(d) how much quantity Government had procured till then?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Fresh requisition orders are not being issued just at present. Requisitioning is resorted to only when substantial stocks of rice are available with the millers/stockists but are not offered to Government.

(c) It is difficult to assess the surplus of rice at any given time.

(d) About 2 lakh tons of rice were procured during the period 12th August 1957 to 31st March 1958.

Shri Parulekar: The heading given to this question is "Purchase of rice by Kerala Government", but the question is in regard to Andhra.

Mr. Speaker: In my copy, the printed heading has been corrected as "Procurement of rice from Andhra".

Shri Parulekar: I gave notice of two questions. The heading of one ques-

tion has been taken and mixed with the contents of the other.

Mr. Speaker: He may look to the contents and not to the heading.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: At the time of this procurement by the Central Government, may I know whether the ceiling prices of rice have been fixed by notification there and if so, why the Government resorted to procurement?

Shri A. P. Jain: The ceiling prices were fixed.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether rice was available in the open market in these four districts at the ceiling prices and if so, why the Government resorted to procurement instead of purchasing in the open market?

Shri A. P. Jain: Whenever we buy rice, we buy at the ceiling prices. We withdrew from the market, because Kerala wanted to buy some rice and we wanted to give them an opportunity.

Shri Punnoose: Is it a fact that the Kerala Government requested the Central Government to purchase rice for them at a fixed price and the Kerala Government was prepared to give the price as well as the cost of transport?

Shri A. P. Jain: The question relates to Andhra and not Kerala.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Just now we have been told that the procurement of rice was stopped, because the Kerala Government wanted to purchase rice. May I know whether it is a fact that the procurement was stopped because the Andhra Government objected?

Shri A. P. Jain: I never said that the procurement was stopped because the Kerala Government wanted to purchase. What I said was that when the stocks are available in the market, then we buy. Incidentally this

was also one of the objects to enable Kerala to buy.

Shri Nagi Reddy: The answer to the question says that the Government stopped procurement because there were less stocks in the Andhra market at that time.

Shri A. P. Jain: The answer is there; the hon. Member can read it.

Shri C. D. Pande: In view of the fact that the procurement was done by the Government and the trade was between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, why did the Kerala Government insist on having a private agent for procurement?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is for the Kerala Government to answer it not for me.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: The question put by Shri Punnoose was not answered.

Shri Ranga: Is it the policy of the Government to coerce the Andhra peasants and purchase foodgrains for the convenience of the Kerala Government when the Kerala Government was prepared to go to Andhra and purchase rice in the open market?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is never the policy of Government to coerce peasants to sell to any particular State Government. The Government of India wanted to procure rice in Andhra and it prescribed controlled prices, i.e. prices at which the Government of India wanted to procure. That was all that we were doing.

Shri Punnoose: Is it a fact that the Kerala Government sought permission to buy rice from the east coastal districts and that was denied?

Shri A. P. Jain: There is no question of any Government seeking any permission, because this is a free movement zone.

Shri Tangamani: May I know how much out of these two lakh tons rice which was procured from the four

districts of Andhra has been supplied to Kerala and how much to Madras?

Shri A. P. Jain: I cannot say how much out of Andhra rice was supplied, because we mix up all stocks. But in the current year, we have supplied so far 68,000 tons of rice to Kerala.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The hon. Minister said that there is no question of preventing the Kerala Government. But is it not a fact that the Kerala Government specially asked the Central Government to permit the Kerala Government to go into these four surplus districts and purchase rice at the open market rate, because the Central Government did not agree to give rice at the ceiling price and is it not a fact that the Central Government did not allow the Kerala Government to purchase rice in the open market even?

Shri A. P. Jain: That would be a request for permission to commit an offence, because the control price has been fixed. *(Interruptions).*

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow a discussion on matters of policy.

Shri Punnoose: Replying to my question, the hon. Minister said that such a request was not made and permission was not denied. But just now he says that the Kerala Government was asking for something illegal.

Shri A. P. Jain: I said that would mean asking permission for doing something which is not legal.

Mr. Speaker: Both the answers are consistent with each other. The hon. Minister wanted to say that the Kerala Government itself is aware of the illegality and so, they did not ask the Central Government.

Shri Rami Reddy: I want to ask one question. Because the other Members were making noise..... *(Interruptions).*

Shri V. P. Nayar: He must withdraw that; we are not making noise.

Mr. Speaker: Shall we allow further noise to be made? It is wrong; no hon. Member makes any noise; he only speaks. It is wrong to say that any hon. Member makes noise, though it may be jarring on the ears of the hon. Member.

Shri Rami Reddy: May I know whether the Andhra Pradesh Government was making repeated representations to the effect that the procurement price was not commensurate with the cost of cultivation and that the price did not correspond to the prices of essential commodities required for cultivation? Has it not made repeated representations to this Government to revise the price for procurement of rice and what is the action that the Central Government is going to take on that representation?

Shri A. P. Jain: The Andhra Government represented to the Central Government that the procurement price should be raised. After considering all the relevant factors the Central Government has come to the conclusion that the control prices cannot be raised. They will continue to remain what they are.

Shri Thirumala Rao: This is an important point and therefore you may please allow one or two more questions, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any more questions. If hon. Members are particular, I will allow a half-an-hour discussion, if a request is made.

Shri Tyagi: It is not justified.

Mr. Speaker: If there is anything new and a requisition is made, I will allow half-an-hour. I cannot by myself say that, but hon. Members can make a request for a half-an-hour, one hour, two hours or five hours discussion.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: I have one submission to make for helping you in having the discussion. One important question remains.

Mr. Speaker: No. Next question.

Commercial Exploitation of Seas

*902. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 491 on the 25th February, 1958 in respect of commercial exploitation of seas and state:

(a) whether any conclusion has since been arrived at; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). A schedule of conditions for the establishment of private fishing companies in collaboration with foreign companies has been laid down. This schedule is placed on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 130].

Some companies, both Indian and foreign, have made enquiries.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the stage at which the matter actually stands?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Recently we have sent one of the Japanese experts to Orissa to start a company there just as we have started one in Bombay. The results of the negotiations have not yet been known to us.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The question does not specify anything for the commercial exploitation of fisheries and the answers do not give anything about the commercial exploitation of seaweeds. I want to know whether the Government have any scheme for tapping the unlimited resources of seaweeds.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The commercial exploitation of the high seas means commercial exploitation of anything available in the seas, so to