

Shri Braj Raj Singh: You can make some arrangement so that some money can be advanced to the farmer.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has given the explanation

Survey of Sundarbans of West Bengal

*906. **Shri Halder:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) why the Sundarbans of West Bengal were excluded from contour survey,

(b) what are the reasons for which Sundarbans were not included in the Second Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether this area will be taken into consideration in the Third Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The original scheme of Contour Survey which excluded the Sundarbans has now been revised by the Government of West Bengal. The revised scheme which envisages Contour Survey of an area of 900 sq. miles, in the district of 24 Parganas including Sundarbans has been submitted by the State Government to the Planning Commission for their approval

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Shri Halder: In view of the fact that the Government have already taken up a plan to rehabilitate refugees in the Sunderbans area, is it not necessary to survey the area immediately so that they have an idea as to how many refugees can be accommodated there?

Shri Hathi: I have not followed the question.

Mr. Speaker: If there is a proposal to rehabilitate or settle some refugees there, is it not necessary to have a survey beforehand to know how many can be rehabilitated there?

Shri Hathi: About rehabilitation I do not know, but the contour survey

373 (A1) L.S.D.—2 B.

scheme has been proposed by the West Bengal Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what exactly is the nature of the development scheme which the West Bengal Government has submitted to the Central Government for inclusion in the Third Five Year Plan, and whether the hon. Minister will lay it on the Table of the House?

Shri Hathi: The scheme that has been submitted by the West Bengal Government—the revised scheme—is for the contour survey of 900 square miles of area

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Are we to take it that there is absolutely no scheme for the development of the Sunderbans which has been undertaken by the West Bengal Government or submitted to the Central Government?

Shri Hathi: There may be a scheme, but that does not relate to the Irrigation Ministry

Godowns in Kerala

+

*908. { **Shri Warrior:**
Shri Kodliyan:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

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

(a) whether Government have received any request from the State Government of Kerala to permit the latter to use the vacant grain godowns in that State for storing grain; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to return the godowns of the State Government.

Shri Warrior: I wish to know whether the Central Government has got godowns which they are willing to let to the State Government

Shri A. M. Thomas: No, Sir.

Shri Bimal Ghose: What: "No, Sir" The Central Government has not got, or is not willing to lend?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Centre has got godowns which the Government does not intend to hand over to the State Government.

Shri Warior: I want to put this question also. What is the objection of the Central Government to handing over their vacant godowns to the State Government for storage?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We may require them in future

Shri Kodiyan: May I know the number of godowns and their storage capacity which are lying vacant in Kerala?

Mr Speaker: How long? All that also must be put

Shri A. M. Thomas: At present the Central Government's godowns capacity comes to about 34,168 tons, and the State Government's which we have got in possession, to 10,635 tons. Some godowns we have already surrendered and the remaining, I have already answered, we have decided to surrender.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: He said they were to be surrendered. Surrender to whom?

Mr Speaker: Surrender to the State Government

Shri A. M. Thomas: Surrender to the State Government

Shri Warior: Confusion is made. The Central Government also has got godowns, the State Government also has got godowns. We want to know why the Central Government godowns still lying there cannot be used by the State Government?

Mr. Speaker: He has said already that they may be required for storing grains by the Central Government,

and if for some short time it is vacant, what is the meaning of asking them? These are all suggestions for action.

Shri Punnoose: One question.

Mr. Speaker: He has come late.

Shri Punnoose: No, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Next question

Sugar Exports

*910. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main difficulties in our extended programme of sugar exports, and

(b) whether there is any proposal to further increase the sugar exports?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) None, Sir, except that the validity of the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 has been challenged before the Supreme Court and the matter is sub-judice

(b) There is no proposal at present.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know how much foreign exchange was earned by sugar export during 1958 and what are our expectations for 1959?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The season is from November to November. As the hon House is aware, we have announced an export quota of a lakh tons from 1958 November to 1959 November. We exported 50,000 tons in 1957-58

Shri Braj Raj Singh: How much foreign exchange was earned?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It has been about Rs 4 crores. I am speaking subject to correction