

that are ruling in the south for maida and other wheat products?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The price of maida produced out of wheat supplied by us has been fixed and now the various State Governments have been asked to take over distribution. So, with that system of distribution I think the consumers will get maida at the price fixed by the department.

Shri Nagi Reddy: Is the Government aware that a number of letters are appearing in the newspapers in the South that the price now ruling there is Rs. 74 per bag of 150 lbs instead of Rs. 42 per bag of 150 lbs which was the price fixed in the whole of the South, especially in the districts of Ramnad and Madurai?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There have been some such reports. But they probably relate to maida manufactured out of indigenous wheat. It may also relate to wheat products smuggled from the North to the South.

Shri Nagi Reddy: I am talking of the wheat that is supplied by the Civil Supplies Department. I am referring to the news items that are regularly appearing for the past three months—that it has appeared even yesterday—that even the wheat that is supplied by the Civil Supplies Department is being sold at Rs. 74 per bag of 150 lbs instead of at Rs. 42 per bag of 150 lbs.

Shri A. M. Thomas: There has been some abuse, I concede. That is why the State Governments have been asked to take over the distribution and the various Collectors have been asked to issue permits to the consumers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact that the hon. Deputy Minister himself had an experience of maida being offered at twice the controlled rate? May I know whether the increased price for maida in the southern States is due to the fact that there is not enough of grinding capacity because of the absence of mills?

Shri A. M. Thomas: A separate question has been tabled on that—the prices prevailing in Coimbatore

and my experience—and an answer will be coming at the appropriate time.

Shri V. P. Nayar: But there must be an answer to this question.

लेट जबल सिंह क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गेहूँ की कमी को देखते हुए क्या यह जरूरी है कि साउथ को गेहूँ का आटा दिया जाय ?

साउथ तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री डॉ० प्र० जैन) : इसलिये दिया जाता है कि वे कुछ गेहूँ भी लायें और जबल भी लायें ।

TELCO Locomotives

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428 { Shri S. M. Banerjee.
Shri Tangamani:
Shri A. K. Gopalan
Shri Nagi Reddy
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri Vasudevan Nair
Shri D. C. Sharma
Shri Parulekar

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 288 on the 27th November, 1958 and state

(a) whether the Arbitrator has since given his award regarding the prices of Telco Locomotives for the period commencing 1st April 1958, and

(b) if so the main features of the award given by him?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) (a) The arbitration proceedings are still in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee. On 27th November, 1958, the hon. Minister, in reply to a question, said "No, Sir" and "does not arise." Today also the same reply is being given. I want to know when the matter was referred to arbitration and what is the time that will still be taken for finalisation of the award?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: In the first instance, the date fixed was about the middle of February this year. They have asked for an extension of four months. Both parties have agreed to the extension. I think the award will be forthcoming by about the middle of June.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My submission is that TELCOS are asking for more price. They want to delay the whole thing. So, I want to know whether there is any intentional delay on their part.

Shri Shah nawas Khan: There is no intentional delay. Both the parties have submitted written statements and very shortly the case will be argued before the arbitrator.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know the number of engines that have been purchased during the period when the arbitrator has not given his award?

Shri Shah nawas Khan: The number of locomotives purchased during the fourth price period is 200.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether there has been a decrease in the price of TELCO locomotives and how it compares with the imported ones.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): All these questions were discussed in the House. It was considered necessary when the parties did not agree to refer the matter to arbitration. The arbitrator will take all those factors into consideration and will give his award. Whatever the award of the arbitrator be, the price will be according to that.

Shri Bimal Ghose: What was the reason which actuated the Government, which I believe is one of the parties, for agreeing to the delay?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As the arbitrator wanted some time because he has to go through the case of both the parties—statements have been submitted by both the parties and the arbitrator felt that in order to study

the case he will require some more time—it was thought necessary to agree when we received this request.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Pande

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There is a contradiction. The hon. Deputy Minister said that both the parties agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow him another opportunity. When I have called another hon. Member, he should not ask a question.

Shri C. D. Pande: In view of the fact that price of locomotives manufactured in Chittaranjan has considerably gone down, is it not possible that correspondingly there should be a reduction in price of TELCO locomotives? Will the award, if it comes two years later, be retrospective? Will these supplies be covered by the previous price?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think all these questions were raised in the House.

Shri C. D. Pande: This is a very important question.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The issue referred to the arbitrator is whether the price should be higher than what the Government has offered or whether it should be lower than what the company has offered. The two limits are more or less fixed. The arbitrator has to decide a figure in between the two prices that have been offered. Whatever figure is given by the arbitrator will be the price for the fourth price period. We have paid the price for the third price period according to the award of the Tariff Commission. The price of the locomotives supplied during the fourth price period will be according to what the arbitrator awards.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Deputy Minister said that both the parties agreed that they wanted some time. The hon. Minister says that the arbitrator wanted some time. May I know which statement is correct?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That is exactly what I said. The arbitrator said that he will require some more time and naturally both the parties, that is, the Government and TELCO, agreed to it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if there is a proposal under the consideration of the Railway Board to take over TELCO as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee some time ago?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question? Whatever else happens in TELCO, apart from arbitration, is not covered.

Shri Nagi Reddy: When there would not be any arbitration at all

Mr. Speaker: Many things can happen

Re-Employment of Retrenched Employees

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*429. { Shri S. M. Banerjee
Shri Tangamani }

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) whether some of the workers retrenched on account of closure of some coach building factories in UP have been provided with alternative jobs in the Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, and

(b) if so, the number thereof?

The Deputy Minister for Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

दुर्गम क्षेत्र समिति

*430. **श्री भक्त बर्जान :** क्या साध तथा कृषि मंत्री १७ दिसम्बर, १९५८ के तारारहित प्रश्न संख्या ११०८ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में साध सम्बन्धी आत्म-निर्भरता प्राप्त करने के सुझाव देने के लिये

जिस दुर्गम क्षेत्र समिति की नियुक्ति की गई थी, उसने इस बीच अपने कार्य में क्या प्रगति की है ?

कृषि उपजंत्री (श्री श्री० बें० कुञ्जप्पा): सभा की टेबिल पर एक विवरण रखा दिया गया है ।

विवरण

२७ सितम्बर, १९५८ को दुर्गम क्षेत्र समिति की प्रस्तावली के उत्तर, आसाम सरकार को छोड़ कर, जिसको स्मरण-पत्र भेज दिया गया है, बाकी सभी राज्य सरकारों । प्रशासनों से अब प्राप्त हो चुके हैं ।

समिति ने सभत्पाओ का स्थल पर जाकर अध्ययन करने के लिये दौरा करने का कार्यक्रम फरवरी, १९५९ के दूसरे सप्ताह से बना लिया है ।

श्री भक्त बर्जान : इस विवरण से ज्ञात होता है कि इस समिति की स्थापना यद्यपि पांच महीने हुए ही चुकी थी, अभी तक केवल दफ्तरी काम ही हो पाया है और अब दौरा शुरू होने वाला है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी हालत में क्या थके जन तक अपनी रिपोर्ट दे सकेंगी ?

श्री श्री० बें० कुञ्जप्पा : इस समिति ने एक प्रस्ताव नी तारी गवर्नमेंट्स के पास भेजी थी और असम की सरकार को छोड़ कर सभी राज्य सरकारों ने अपने उत्तर भेज दिये हैं । असम सरकार को भी स्मरण-पत्र भेजा गया है और कहा गया है कि वह भी जल्दी में जल्दी अपना उत्तर भेजे । समिति ने दूर करने का भी इतिहास कर लिया है ।

श्री भक्त बर्जान : जैसा कि समिति के टर्म्स ऑफ रेफरेंस से स्पष्ट होता है इस कमेटी ने यह पूछा गया है कि क्या इन इलाकों को आद्योत्पादन के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर बनाया जा सकता है या नहीं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को यह ज्ञात है कि ये इलाके चाहे कितना भी प्रबन्ध क्यों