

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Yes.

Shri A. M. Thomas: From Madhya Pradesh, there is smuggling.

श्री ए० एम० थोमस: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार जो पैदी करीब रही है, उसके मिलान कराने का क्या कोई इतिहास भारत सरकार की तरफ से हुआ है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is arrangement for transporting in the form of paddy itself from Madhya Pradesh. It has been possible to send about 10,000 tons of coarse paddy to West Bengal by the Madhya Pradesh Government. There are milling arrangements; either it will be milled there or it will be transported to other States.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: My question was this: whether in Madhya Pradesh Government, when they are purchasing paddy, there is any arrangement made by the Government of India to have mills there. Or, is it sent to other places?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have stated the other day before the House that the Central Government purchases rice from Madhya Pradesh and paddy is being purchased by the State Government; both machineries are existing there. I think both the arrangements are working satisfactorily.

सेठ गोविन्द दास: मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार में जो धान मध्य प्रदेश में करीब है उसका चावल बन कर भ्रमण भ्रमण प्रदेशों में जा सके और मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार को और भी धान वहाँ करीबने में सुनीता हो सके, इसके लिए क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार कुछ कर रही है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I stated that in the form of paddy itself it is to be transported to other places, and it is also being milled there. We are also purchasing hand-pounded rice. My friend, I think, was referring to hand-pounded rice.

श्री सुब्रह्मण्य राव: मध्य प्रदेश से जो धान करीब जा रहा है वह किस भाव से करीब जा रहा है और बेंगल में जो जाता है वह किस भाव पर जाता है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Madhya Pradesh paddy is being purchased. The rates range from Rs. 9.15 to Rs. 14.20 for various kinds. For coarse variety, it is Rs. 9.50. It has been possible for the Madhya Pradesh Government to sell this to the West Bengal Government at the rate of Rs. 10.69 per maund.

श्री सादीबाला: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो धान, मीठ, गन्ना, करीब जा रहा है, क्या सरकार सारा धान और राइस करीब कर रही है या पूरे तीर से करीब नहीं कर रही है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes Sir All that is offered is being purchased

Shri Supakar: }
Shri Panigrahi: } rose—

Mr. Speaker: I know both of them come from Orissa.

Shri Supakar: It is a question concerning the whole of India.

Mr. Speaker: I am aware any hon. Member can put any question in this House.

Pay Strike by P. & T. Employees

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•1428 { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs employees in the country observed a pay strike on the 2nd March, 1959;

(b) if so, what were their grievances; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes. Some of the P. & T. employees did not accept pay for February, 1959 on the 2nd March, 1959.

(b) (i) Immediate grant of second instalment of interim relief;

(ii) early publication of Pay Commission report;

(iii) repeal of rules 4(A) and 4(B) of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules; and

(iv) quashing of action already taken against union workers under these rules.

(c) As already announced on the floor of this house, it is within the terms of reference of the Pay Commission to recommend the grant of second interim relief. The report of the Pay Commission is expected to be out by the end of June next.

As regards points (iii) and (iv) Government are unable to reconsider the position

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is in the knowledge of the hon. Minister that the recent amendment of the Government Servants Conduct Rules has exempted the ports, dock and defence installation employees from the purview of rules 4(A) and 4(B), which is also one of the demands of the P. & T. employees and whether this question has been taken up by the Ministry with the Home Ministry to exempt the P. & T. employees also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The port and dock employees are exempted from the operation of rules 4(A) and 4(B), but the P. & T. employees are not. This has been decided after due consideration of the whole question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether a number of telegrams have been received from all over the country from the P. & T. employees in this regard and whether this will be discussed along with the representatives of P. & T. employees and of the Home Ministry?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir, telegrams have been received.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether this question of discrimination against P. & T. employees will be referred to the Pay Commission?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would like to repudiate the insinuation that there is any discrimination. The decision has been taken on merits, keeping in view the fact that P. & T. employees belong to essential public utility services and also they are not in the category of industrial employees as such; so, these rules have been made applicable to them

Shri Hem Barna: In view of the fact that the P. & T. employees are demanding a second instalment of interim relief and in view of the fact that the statement says that it is within the terms of reference of the Pay Commission, may I know what steps Government have taken to impress upon the Pay Commission the urgency of the situation, so that a second instalment of interim relief may be given?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Government would not think it appropriate to interfere with the discretion of the Pay Commission and I think the observations made the other day by the Finance Minister in this behalf are relevant.

Dr. Melkote: May I know the total number of employees in the P. & T. Department and how many Centres were affected and the number that participated in this strike?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to the statistics available, out of a total of 2,14,000 non-gazetted P. & T. employees, only as many as 33,205 did

not draw their pay on 2nd March, which means about one-seventh of the total number of employees participated in this so-called pay-strike.

श्री जगत दर्शन : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन कर्मचारियों ने २ मार्च को तन्स्वाह नहीं ली थी, उन्होंने अभी तक भी तन्स्वाह नहीं ली है या कि उस के बाद से ली ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जी नहीं, उन्होंने दूसरे दिन तन्स्वाह ले ली ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether, in view of the assurance given by the Finance Minister that the Pay Commission's report is likely to be submitted by June, 1959 and also the assurance regarding the various demands, it is possible for the hon. Minister to call a conference with the P. & T. employees, regarding this agitation which is a continued one and which has been phased out?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not think the Ministry of Transport and Communications can improve on the assurances, if any, given by the Finance Minister, in this matter.

Procurement of Rice from Andhra

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*122. { Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:
Shri Hami Reddy:

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Centre not to procure rice from the districts of Srikakulam, Chittoor, Warangal and Nizamabad as they were affected either by floods or drought; and

(b) the action taken by the Centre in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Centre not to procure rice in these districts as the surplus available therein is comparatively small.

(b) The State Government have been advised that, as far as possible, the Centre will refrain from requisitioning rice in these districts and will purchase rice only on the basis of voluntary offers received from the traders and millers of these districts.

श्री इ० जयसुन्दर राव : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतला सकेंगे कि श्रीकाकुलम, गुन्तूर, वारंगल और निजामाबाद में अब तक किसमें प्रोक्वोरमेंट किया गया है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have stated that purchase will be made only on the basis of voluntary offers and we are not requisitioning at present in these places. After the new arrangements had been entered into, about 40,000 tons of rice has been procured on a voluntary basis in Andhra. I do not think any quantity has been procured from these districts.

श्री इ० जयसुन्दर राव : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि वाराणसी गवर्नमेंट की क्या उन्होंने इन्कार कर दिया है कि वे इन डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में कलेक्ट नहीं करेंगे ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Andhra Pradesh Government is not procuring there; it is the Central Government machinery that is procuring. Although we left it to the State Government to procure, they are not amenable to procure it now. As far as these districts are concerned, it will not be possible to give any positive assurance. If on trade account adequate quantities are not moving or if we are satisfied that there is deliberate hoarding—as for example in Nellore District—we may have to reconsider the position.

Mr. Speaker: Nellore is not one of the districts. The hon. Deputy Minister seems to have said that they are not procuring. The hon. Member wants to know even if they are offered, having regard to those districts, why the Government should purchase?