

Shri Heda: May I know how the funds accrue in the proforma State Trading account? Are they the savings of insurance fund?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No, we set apart about 9 naye Paise per maund. We debit it to the account and add it on to the cost price, and that amount will be set apart for these things.

Shri Heda: Are they not from the insurance amount?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As I said, each cargo is not insured. But by way of insurance fund we are setting apart a certain sum for each quantity that is being transacted upon by us. And, subject to correction, I think it is 9 naye Paise per maund.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the difference between the freight charged by U.S. flag ships and other vessels?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That will depend upon the circumstances obtaining on each occasion.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the difference in the freight rates in bringing these 3 million tons of food-grains?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There may not be much difference. This 50 per cent of freight is met by the U.S. Government itself under the PL 480 Aid account which we have to pay in a period of thirty to forty years. But there cannot be much difference between the freight of U.S. flag ships and other vessels.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What is the freight charge of Indian shipping and that of U.S. shipping?

Shri A. M. Thomas: For the specific freight charge I will require notice.

Food Zones

+

*526. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Fangarkar:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:

{ **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadl:
Shri Madhusudan Rao:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Sanganna:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state at what stage is the proposal of modifying the present zonal system with a view to having larger Food Zones by linking deficit States with the contiguous surplus States?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): The State of West Bengal has already been linked with the State of Orissa and the question of linking the State of Bombay with the State of Madhya Pradesh is under consideration.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government has raised an objection to this scheme?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is a fact.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the tangle with regard to the linking up of Orissa with West Bengal has been solved amicably and, if so, what efforts are being made to ensure regular supplies from the Orissa State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): As a rule, we bring no pressure on any State Government for the combination of these zones, and no pressure was brought at all on Orissa or Bengal. It was on their own free will that both the States have come together, of course with our blessings.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether suggestions were invited from various State Governments and, if so, the names of those State Governments that have preferred a bigger zone; and whether it is also a fact that Punjab and U.P. have agreed to have a bigger zone with Delhi—and one zone?

Shri S. K. Patil: No, I do not think that they have agreed. But there is no question of linking them up; we

have not got any proposal to that effect. The proposal is only about Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. But there also we say that unless Madhya Pradesh and Bombay are ready we do not want to do anything; the normal things will operate.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Is it not a fact that there is a great disparity in prices between the northern districts of U.P., Delhi and Punjab; and in order to avoid smuggling is there any proposal to make them one zone?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is no such proposal now.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: For some time now this talk of finalisation of the zone was going on. What is the present position? Is the system working satisfactorily? If so, will the Government pay heed to the request made by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh?

Shri S. K. Patil: There is no talk going on that way except that questions are asked in this House. We have not been pursuing that matter in any way whatsoever. It is a mere matter of distribution, and we have no closed mind on the subject. Whatever is good could be done. Therefore, we are not pursuing any talks whatsoever.

Shri Rami Reddy: Is it not a fact that the Southern States of Madras and Andhra Pradesh have been demanding separate zones? In the budget speech the Andhra Minister has mentioned that they have been pressing the Centre for the creation of Andhra as a separate zone but the Centre is not willing.

Shri S. K. Patil: I do not know if Andhra Pradesh, or any other State, is demanding anything. If they demand it, surely they could have it. I have been able to persuade them so far, and so far as the persuasion lasts they will remain in the zone. If they want to be free, surely there is no compulsion on my side.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या इस सम्बन्ध में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को कुछ लिखा है और क्या उन्होंने यह भी लिखा है कि जहाँ तक धान और गेहूँ के भाव का सम्बन्ध है वहाँ तक उम को दो, दो रुपये मन बढ़ाने की इजाजत दी जाये ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : यह तो लिखा है कि २ रुपये और १ रुपये धान का भाव बढ़ाया जाये, लेकिन जब धान का भाव बढ़ता है तो केवल मध्य प्रदेश के लिये नहीं बढ़ता है, वह पूरे देश के लिये बढ़ता है, और इस के माने यह है कि इस में करोड़ों रुपयों का सवाल उठ जायेगा। यह चीज ऐसी तो नहीं है कि मध्य प्रदेश ने मांग की है इसलिये गवर्नमेंट मान सकती है।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : लेकिन क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि मध्य प्रदेश में धान का जो भाव है वह सब जगहों में कम है और क्या ऐसी हालत में जब कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार मध्य प्रदेश और बम्बई का एक जोन नहीं बनाना चाहती है तो वहाँ के किसानों को कुछ लाभ देने के लिये भाव बढ़ाने से कुछ फायदा हो सकता है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : जब कोई चीज एक साथ में बनती है या यह चीज मध्य प्रदेश के हाथ नहीं है कि चूंकि वह एक जोन नहीं बनाना चाहता इसलिये भाव बढ़ा दे। अगर भाव बढ़ाना है, और मैं चाहूंगा कि बढ़ाया जाये अगर हो सके, तो यह एक स्ट्रेट पर निर्भर नहीं करता कि वह बढ़ा दे। अगर बढ़ाना है तो वह केवल मध्य प्रदेश के लिये नहीं बढ़ेगा, बल्कि पूरे भारत के लिये बढ़ाना पड़ेगा। यह बहुत बड़ा विषय है और केवल मध्य प्रदेश के मांग करने से काम नहीं चल सकता।

सेठ गोविन्द दास : एक बात का उत्तर मुझे नहीं मिला कि मध्य प्रदेश में जो धान का भाव है वह अन्य स्थानों से कम है या नहीं ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : नहीं, यह इसलिये नहीं है कि जो भाव हमारी तरफ से रखा जाता है वह पूरे देश के लिये गेहूँ और चावल के सम्बन्ध में एक ही होता है ।

Shri Tyagi: What is the usefulness and utility of maintaining this zone system and what harm would come if the deficits and surpluses are uniformly shared by the whole country?

Mr. Speaker: It is a general question.

Shri Tyagi: I want to know why is it necessary.

Shri S. K. Patil: Many people seem to be under the impression that the separate zones that are now demanded by the individual States are under the Essential Commodities Act. There were no such zones before. We have not forced them to have any zone. I agree with the hon. Minister.

Shri Tyagi: Thank you.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Would be Minister.

Shri S. K. Patil: As far as I am concerned, I am thinking of only one zone.

श्रीमती कृष्णा मेहता : क्या माननीय मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जम्मू और कश्मीर का अलग जोन बनाया जायेगा या नहीं ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : जम्मू कश्मीर का अलग जोन बना कर हम क्या करें क्योंकि वह तो डेफिसिट स्टेट है । उस को अलग करने में कोई फायदा नहीं है ।

Shri Sampath: Regarding a zone for Andhra Pradesh the hon. Minister has stated that there was no compulsion on the part of the Central Government. May I know whether the same applies to Madras State also?

Shri S. K. Patil: If it can apply to Andhra Pradesh, surely much more so in the case of Madras State.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जब एक स्टेट में एक जगह गेहूँ १६ रुपये मन बिकता है और दूसरी जगह २५ रुपये मन बिकता है तो उस को एक जोन करना कहां तक ठीक है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : उस को दुरुस्त करना मेरा काम नहीं है, प्रापकी स्टेट के हाथ में है ।

Shri Supakar: What is the consequence of linking Orissa and West Bengal into one zone in the matter of food prices in both the States?

Shri S. K. Patil: As it is, naturally the prices in Orissa will slightly rise; must rise. If you take both things together, apart from the price level going down a little in Bengal and going up a bit in Orissa, it creates a sense of self-confidence in the States.

Shri Assar: May I know whether the Government is aware that the price of rice has shot up in Maharashtra as a result of the reported refusal of Madhya Pradesh to join the zone?

Shri S. K. Patil: If the people want to really say something and then go on refusing it, and as a result of it the prices either go up or go down, surely neither this Government nor my Ministry are responsible for it.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: The hon. Minister just now stated that Jammu and Kashmir is a deficit State. In view of this fact, may I know whether there is any proposal to link this State with any other surplus State?

Shri S. K. Patil: Nobody wants a poor relative to be linked with him.

Correction of Answer to a Supplementary Question on S.Q. 525

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): With your permission, I would like to correct the answer which I gave

earlier in reply to a supplementary question put by Shri Heda on Starred Question No. 525. He asked me a question with regard to the price element to cover insurance. I had called for the information, and it is now available. The rate is not 9 nP for wheat. It is 4 nP per maund for wheat and two annas per maund for rice. These rates are reviewed from time to time.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I request that S.Q. 550 may also be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Minister prepared to answer it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I find that both Shri H. N. Mukerjee and Shri Prabhat Kar are absent.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: But they are related questions.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Shall I read the answers to both?

Mr. Speaker: No. I am not going to call S.Q. 550. If any questions arise then we will see.

Balari Bar Experiments

+

*527. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shrimati Renu Chakravarty.

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 580 on the 3rd December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the results of the model experiments of Balari Bar on the river Hooghly conducted by Central Water Power Research Station at Poona have since been received;

(b) if not, whether any interim report has come;

(c) since when Balari Bar is being dredged by the Calcutta Port authorities; and

(d) what are the results of dredging?

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

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The experiments are still in progress.

(b) An interim report has not been received. But the tentative conclusion reached from the model experiments so far conducted at the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, is that a depth of 12 feet can be maintained at the Balari Bar by the construction of a flood spur in the Balari Tower region, combined with dredging. Further experiments are in progress.

(c) From the 7th December, 1958.

(d) As a result of dredging, the deterioration has been arrested and some improvement has also been effected. The depth of water at Balari Bar which went down to 7 feet in December, 1958 is now about 10 feet.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Rangafalla Bar, which is very near to Balari Bar, is also being experimented under the same model by the CWPC Research Station?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as I know, the model is entirely of the Hooghly channel. Therefore, all the various bars and other broad features of the river are included in the model so that there may be a comprehensive and integrated examination and study of the various features.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the silt that is being deposited at Balari bar there is any proposal to have a dumping station?

Shri Raj Bahadur: At present it is taken to the remoter part of the river. I cannot say whether there is any proposal to dump it in a particular place at the moment. The new