

जमीन नहीं है और हालांकि काफी वेस्ट लैंड पड़ा हुआ है लेकिन राज्य सरकारों के जिम्मेदार अधिकारी लोग ऐसी जमीनों को उनके द्वारा प्रार्थनापत्र देने पर भी उनमें डिस्ट्रिब्यूट नहीं करते हैं ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Government of India's policy is, wherever land suitable for cultivation is there, it should be brought under cultivation.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: May I know whether the hon. Minister has had time to look at the report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs dealing with the National Botanical Gardens and if not, will the hon. Minister kindly study those recommendations and take action on them?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I shall certainly do that.

Procurement of Wheat from Madhya Pradesh

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*1706. { **Shri Nathwani:**
Shri Morarka:
Shri Rajeshwar Patel:

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

(a) what is the price at which wheat is procured from cultivators in Madhya Pradesh for supplying it to the fair price shops in Bombay;

(b) whether any profit is paid to the Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(c) what is the price at which it is sold through the fair price shops in Bombay?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The Madhya Pradesh Government have so far supplied to the Bombay Government only grade—I and grade—II varieties of wheat which they purchased from the cultivators at Rs. 16 and Rs. 15 per maund respectively for naked grain.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh Government supplied wheat to the Bombay Government in two instalments of 15,000 tons and 10,000 tons. For the first instalment they charged Rs. 19 per maund for grade—I wheat and Rs. 18 per maund for grade—II wheat for supply f.o.r. despatching station. For the second instalment they charged their economic price of Rs. 18.68 nPs. per maund for grade—I wheat and Rs. 17.64 nPs. per maund for grade—II wheat. Thus, for the first instalment of 15,000 tons the Madhya Pradesh Government got a small margin of 32 nPs. per maund for grade—I wheat and 36 nPs. per maund for grade—II wheat.

(c) In Bombay city the issue price for both grade I and grade II wheat is Rs. 22.80 per maund and in the districts the price for grade—I is Rs. 22.80 per maund and for grade II Rs. 22 per maund.

Shri Nathwani: May I know whether the Government has received any complaint from farmers in M.P. about their being compelled to sell their wheat to the M.P. Government?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The House knows that M.P. State has been cordoned off and the procurement prices for the wheat that is being voluntarily offered to the State Government have also been fixed. Of course, there have been complaints from the growers that the price given to them is inadequate.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: After the scheme of State-trading in food-grains has been given up by the NDC, may I know whether M.P. Government will directly supply wheat to the Bombay Government or it will be supplied through trade agencies?

Shri A. M. Thomas: This is done on a State Government to State Government basis between the M.P. and Bombay Governments. They are mainly concerned with it. Of course, we also come in the picture.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: My question was, recently the Food Minis-

ter has insisted on the N.D.C. to give up State-trading in foodgrains. I want to know whether it has been given up and if so, how it will be channelled from M.P. Government to Bombay Government.

Mr. Speaker: This contains three or four questions. Has State-trading been given up?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The policy with regard to State-trading has been discussed on the floor of the House and the stand of the Central Government in this respect has been explained on many occasions. I do not know how the question of State-trading comes into the picture here.

Shri Ranga: Why is it that when the M.P. Government was supplying wheat at Rs. 18 and odd per maund, the Bombay Government is allowed to charge Rs. 22 and odd even in the fair price shops?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have got the break-up. To the Bombay Government it costs about Rs. 3·12 nP per maund for distribution and they add that amount to the cost that they incur by the purchase that is effected from M.P.

Shri Ranga: Are we to understand that the M.P. Government is retaining for itself, after charging Rs. 18 from the Bombay Government, over and above that Rs. 3 per maund, or is it that the Bombay Government is making a profit of Rs. 4 per maund?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The costs of various items are included in the cost for supply at the f.o.r. despatching station. The M.P. Government incur a cost of Rs. 18·68 nP for Grade I wheat and Rs. 17·64 nP for Grade II wheat. I have already told the House with regard to the small margin that they get on the sales effected to the Bombay Government.

As far as the Bombay Government is concerned, according to the break-up of the various items that they have given to us, they incur cost to the extent of Rs. 3·12 nP per maund. They add that to the cost they pay

to the M.P. Government and then supply it to the fair price shops.

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that wheat is procured from the cultivator at Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per maund and it is sold in Bombay at Rs. 22·18 nP per maund? If that is so, may I know who makes the profit of Rs. 10 per maund?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have already said that it is not correct to say that it is being procured at the rate of Rs. 12. Grade I is procured at Rs. 16 and Grade II at Rs. 15. Of course, after adding the various costs incurred by the State Governments, it comes to that figure

Mr. Speaker: Both Shri Ranga and Shri Morarka put the same question. The hon. Minister says it is procured at Rs. 15 and not at Rs. 12 or Rs. 13, and they have got other incidental charges amounting to Rs. 3 and odd. They add it and therefore sell it for Rs. 18. What is the good of going into further details?

Shri Ranga: Is it not also the function of the Government of India to see whether this charge made by the Bombay Government on the basis that their incidental expenses come to as much as or more than Rs. 3 per maund after having paid only Rs. 18 and odd for the producers as well as the M.P. Government, is reasonable? Has that been looked into? Does it not smack of so much of profiteering?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I shall give the break-up: Freight Re. 1·00, town duty Re. 0·15, handling, storage, transit loss, etc. Re. 1·00, interest on investment Re. 0·07, administration overheads Re. 0·30, margin for contingencies like additional cleaning, transport charges for interim godown movement Re. 0·60; total Rs. 3·12.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a letter from a farmer published in the *Times of India* dated the 29th March, 1960, in which the farmer has complained that while they are compelled to sell their wheat

at Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per maund, the same is marketed in Bombay at Rs. 22, whereas the expenses involved are not more than Rs. 2.32? If not, may I request the hon. Minister to study that letter and give some redress to the farmer?

Mr. Speaker: Every farmer will try to get more price. Next question.

Railway Accident in Bombay

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*1707. { **Shri Assar:**
 Shri U. L. Patil:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bombay recently an accident took place when six passengers were killed on Western Railway while they were travelling by local trains to see Air Display on the I.A.F. Day; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). On the I.A.F. Day, on 3rd April, 1960 there was phenomenal overcrowding in the suburban trains of the Western Railway going to and coming from Churchgate station. In spite of elaborate arrangements made and repeated warnings given, a very large number of people indulged in travelling on footboards windows and buffers. There was utter disregard for discipline and order amongst the passengers. The result was that 14 cases of injuries to passengers due to falling out of trains were reported from different places and of these, 4 proved fatal.

Shri Assar: May I know why additional trains were not run by the railway authorities anticipating heavy rush due to the Air Display?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: 4 extra trains were run. But even the normal trains could not be run, because there was so much of chain-pulling and the trains went out of schedule.

Shri Assar: May I know whether ad hoc compensation has been paid to the families of those who were killed by this accident?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There have been no claims and no compensation has been paid.

Shri Tyagi: Have any instructions been issued recently to the station staff of railways to allow beggars and other vagabonds on the platform without any platform ticket to beg in the trains?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Tyagi: It arises because it is they who get into the platform first without any ticket.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: This I.A.F. display attracted about 7 lakh people, and at least half of them travelled by train. It is a stupendous number that we had to carry and because the crowd was not disciplined and was disorderly this has happened.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Purchase of Railway Stores

*1693. { **Shri Abdul Salam:**
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri R. C. Majhi:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has agreed to purchase stores from the small industries sector with assistance of the National Small Industries Corporation; and

(b) if so, the value of purchases made by the Board so far in 1959-60?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present procedure is in the course of implementation on Railways. However, the value of purchases of stores falling under the category of Cottage and Small Industries' Products is Rs. 1,47,39,729 (during the