

Shri Jagjivan Ram: In any case, it will not lapse, and we hope to spend the money as soon as we receive the approval of the West Bengal Government.

Short Notice Question and Answer

Steel Purchasing Mission

S.N.Q. No. 22. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Steel Purchasing Mission of Railway Board which visited Europe recently has concluded a deal for supply of steel;

(b) If so, the quantity and value of steel in Indian currency to be supplied;

(c) when they will be delivered at Indian Ports; and

(d) projects likely to be expedited on receipt of this supply?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The Steel purchasing Mission from the Railway Board have placed orders for most of the steel requirements of the Railways;

(b) Orders have been placed for 5.22 lakh tons of iron and steel valued approximately 38 crores of rupees;

(c) Shipments have already commenced from August 1957 and are expected to be completed by March 1959.

(d) mainly track renewals.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the Mission observed any abnormal spurt in the prices of steel in those countries because we had announced that we are in dire need of steel?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No. There was no rise in prices on that account and it is rather an abnormal phenomenon that lower prices were quoted.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether, in the agreement that has been entered into, any penalty provisions have been made for short supply or delayed supply?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think that is a normal clause in all such agreements.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know which are the countries from where these supplies are coming?

Mr. Speaker: What is the object?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There are many countries. I can read out the names.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. If the hon. Member is interested in a particular country, he will put the question.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I want to know.

Mr. Speaker: What is the object?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: The object is, knowing the names of the countries.

Mr. Speaker: Any particular question must be able to shed more light on the issue. The items must be purchased from some countries.

Shri Ranga rose—

Shri Sinhasan Singh: The other countries may offer at lesser prices.

Mr. Speaker: He may say which is the lowest price and which country offers it.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I want to know wherefrom they are getting it and whether the offer was made to countries which might have quoted lesser rates.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have purchased from ten countries—all the important countries of the world.

Mr. Speaker: Our time is too precious for all these countries.

Shri Ranga: In the light of past experience with the railways themselves, regarding their purchases and the agreements they have reached, may I know whether the hon. Minister himself took the trouble to look into the agreement and see whether a proper penalty clause is put in there for proper deliveries. Otherwise, so

much has got to be deducted from the cost price, especially when the PAC has drawn the attention of the Government to such things in the past.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That does not apply in these cases where an ad hoc quantity of steel is to be supplied. I have not myself seen that particular clause in the agreement. I have not seen the agreement, but I presume that that is the normal feature in all such cases and care would have been taken of that aspect.

given to Starred Question No. 17 on the 20th March, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have since sent any scheme for the development of Kolleru Lake in West Godavari District Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Central Foodgrain Godowns

*1426. **Shri J. R. Mehta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what was the wastage per maund per annum of wheat and rice stored in Central Godowns for the latest year for which figures may be available;

(b) what is the normal period for which wheat and rice can be preserved without risk of damage or deterioration in godowns which have not been made scientifically rust or insect proof;

(c) whether the Government of India has constructed any godowns which may be rust or insect or moisture proof;

(d) if so, how many and of what capacity; and

(e) how long can wheat and rice be stored in these godowns without risk of damage or deterioration?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) For the year 1956 quantities of wheat and rice damaged or deteriorated in storage worked out to 0.05 and 0.13 chhattaks per maund, respectively.

(b) There can be no normal period for safe storage of grain in such godowns as deterioration may start immediately after storage, unless adequate steps are taken for preservation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Irrigation and Power Targets under First Five Year Plan in Rajasthan

*1424. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to remove the causes for the abnormal shortfall in irrigation and power targets under the First Five Year Plan in Rajasthan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): In regard to irrigation, the Planning Commission have *inter alia* addressed the State Government to appoint Working Groups to investigate the causes of shortfall and find out ways and means of quick development of irrigation.

As regards the power sector, the shortfall has been mainly due to the delays in the procurement of material and equipment and lack of experienced technical personnel. Necessary assistance is being rendered to the State Government in the procurement of electrical plant and equipment, transmission line materials etc., to the extent possible.

Kolleru Lake in West Godavari District Andhra Pradesh

*1425. { **Shri B. S. Murthy:**
Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply