

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any extra staff has been appointed for this economy committee, so, what is the extra expenditure involved?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want economy or not? Are the same persons who incur the expenditure to sit in judgment over themselves and be asked to economise or to suggest economy? Therefore, other persons have to do so.

Shri Anthony Pillai: The implication of the question is whether the extra cost on the extra staff will be equal to the economy achieved

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to make a mockery of it. Wherever economy has to be effected, some other officer or some other person has to be appointed to look into it. Otherwise, the very man who has been carrying on with that staff will not do so. Therefore, whatever additional expenditure is involved has to be incurred. There is no good merely pooh-poohing it and saying: at least are you going to get the amount spent on this

Shri B. S. Murthy: I am sorry that...

Mr. Speaker: Let us be more serious. The hon. Member may come to that seat at any time, I am expecting it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I say a word by way of personal explanation? You used a word which I did not use. It is not a mockery. In many departments economy committees are appointed, Deputy-Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Under-Secretaries are appointed, and finally that becomes a department. Therefore, I wanted to know whether the hon. Railway Minister who is very careful about economy has got any more involvements or not.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The question of the hon. Member presents a caricature of the steps taken in the various Ministries for economy. He says an economy unit is set up and ultimately that

unit itself becomes a part of the Ministry, and thereby adds to the expenditure and does not effect any economy. I do not think the efforts of the various Ministries deserve that caricature by the hon. Member. Some additional staff is necessary to scrutinize expenses, but I may inform the hon. Member that no extra expenditure is involved in the committee that we have set up.

Mr. Speaker: Sometimes additional expenditure has to be involved. If hon. Members, or a committee of Parliament has to go, are they to go on air? Even on air they have to pay the charges.

Cold Storages

*666. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing:

(a) the number of cold storages with their capacities for preserving fruits and other perishable commodities, which are working in India as on the 30th June, 1957,

(b) the target fixed for cold storages in the Second Five Year Plan;

(c) what has been the progress during the First Five Year Plan; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to help developed cold storages during the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) There are more than 100 cold storages in India. Information regarding their capacity has been called for from the State Governments which is awaited.

(b) Eight

(c) In the First Five Year Plan there was no scheme for setting up of cold storages in the public sector. The details of progress in the private sector are not available though some progress was made.

(d) The Government is giving help by procuring cement, steel and other

controlled items for the private concerns. Technical guidance is also provided, wherever it is needed.

Shri Damani: May I know which State possesses the largest number of cold storages?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I must ask for notice of the question.

Shri Gajendraprasad Sinha: Is there any proposal to provide every district with a cold storage?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

Shri A. S. Sarhad: May I know if the Government is doing anything to establish cold storage on a co-operative basis and to assure that the growers also have some share?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Every effort is being made to establish these cold storages, and some are intended to be established on a co-operative basis as far as possible.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In order to help establishing these cold storages, may I know whether the Government gives any financial aid in the shape of loans to private concerns, and if so, whether the distribution is made by the State Governments or it is given directly by the Government of India to the different individuals concerned?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No loan has been given so far to any private concern, nor is there any provision for that.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if Government's attention has been drawn to certain press reports in Calcutta to the effect that certain people keep potatoes and other vegetables and fruits in these cold storages for a considerable period in order to profiteer, and if so, if Government is adopting any steps to counteract that kind of thing?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): This is one method of preservation, and of course, some people may get more of profit.

We do not know how we can interfere with that. It is just a matter of cold storage.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the Government has got any scheme to provide cold storage facilities in all the marketing and warehousing companies and societies that are in the rural areas?

Shri A. P. Jain: This industry is in the private sector. Nonetheless, in some special places, Government may think of putting up some cold storages.

Shri Ferose Gandhi: May I know whether all the Ministries are equipped with cold storages?

Co-operative Societies on Railways

*688. **Shrimati A. Kale:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the recommendation of the Survey Report on Consumer Co-operative Societies on the Indian Railways and state.

(a) whether the four wholesale Co-operative Societies with Headquarters at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi have been formed for purchasing in bulk, the requirements of Railway Employees' Consumer Co-operative Stores,

(b) if so, how they are working; and

(c) the progress made in regard to the organisation of a Co-operative Union for the Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No. The question of establishing a Central Co-operative Stores on an All-India basis on the analogy of the Canteen Stores Department (India), in preference to 4 wholesale co-operative societies as originally proposed, is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The question of organising a Co-operative Union has not been taken up, pending the formation of a sufficient number of primary co-operative