

Shri Banga: For what tenure?

Shri Humayun Kabir: These are not on tenure. When you take foreign nationals, if you dismiss them, you create a certain amount of ill-will. With regard to these people who have been in service, from the point of view of public relations and attracting local traffic it has proved of advantage that these men have been there.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Is it not a fact that by international convention any international operator has to employ a certain number of the nationals of the country through which it traverses?

Shri Humayun Kabir: So far as the junior posts are concerned, the convention is that nationals of the country where the station is, are appointed.

Shri Jaipal Singh: How many non-Indian nationals are in the employ of Air India International at the present moment?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I can say about senior officers. If my hon. friend wants to know all the detailed figures, they have to be collected. There are eighteen stations, and out of them non-Indian nationals are operating only at five stations.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In the course of the debate on the Demands relating to this Ministry we were given the information that the Air India International has been opening out contact offices in various parts of the world. In these offices, are there mostly Indians or non-Indian nationals?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As I have stated, out of the eighteen stations which are outside the country, only in five are the heads non-Indian; all the other thirteen are Indian. And so far as the junior posts are concerned, like Secretaries and Assistants, these have to be local nationals for obvious reasons.

Shri Biren Roy: Are Government aware that in most of these foreign stations the ordinary Indian passengers are treated with very scant courtesy?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have not heard of that; in fact I have heard high praise.

Mr. Speaker: By Air India International?

Shri Biren Roy: I am speaking particularly of the Air India International.

Shri Humayun Kabir: Till now we have received only praise about the courtesy and service of the Air India International.

Shri Biren Roy: I am not speaking of the service in the aircraft. I am speaking of it, at the stations.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have not received any complaints up till now. This is the first time I am hearing it, and I shall draw the attention of the Chairman to this complaint.

Shri Biren Roy: I will place facts before him.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I heard the hon. Minister say that certain foreign nationals were there because suitable, qualified Indian personnel were not available. If key managerial posts can be manned by Indians in this country, what are the particular technical requisites for which qualified Indians are not available abroad?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The answer is very simple. It is a question of linguistic efficiency. In this country most of the transactions are through English, whereas in Czechoslovakia or Switzerland or other foreign countries, unless the Indian national has sufficient facility in the language of that country he cannot operate efficiently.

Southern Rice Zone

*1660. **Shri N. R. Munsamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the fixation of price of rice per maund F.O.R. is uniform in all States comprising Southern Rice Zone and whether it is being observed?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): No statutory prices have been fixed for rice in the States comprising the Southern Rice Zone.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: In view of the restrictions on the imports of rice, is there any corresponding reduction contemplated in the supply of rice to Kerala and Madras State which are now supplying rice through fair price shops and are now preventing the shortage and mal-distribution?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The hon. Member's presumption is just the contrary. As a result of the creation of the southern zone, the supplies there have increased. The southern zone has not been importing from the other zones of India. On the other hand, it has been exporting to other parts of India, particularly, to Calcutta, Bombay and Saurashtra. With the creation of the zone, all the rice which would otherwise have gone to those areas, is now there, and no shops are closing there, except that now, with the creation of the zone, we propose to stop supplies to the fair price shops in Mysore and Madras with effect from 1st October.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: Is the Minister aware that in spite of the formation of the southern rice zone, the price of rice in Andhra Pradesh is running high, and has he taken steps to see that he sends some officers to Andhra and Orissa for the acceleration of the procurement of rice so that he can see that Kerala and Madras do get some supply?

Shri A. P. Jain: Prices in the south this year are generally lower than what they were last year except in Andhra. In Andhra we are doing operations of procurement and also we are buying in Orissa.

Dr. K. B. Menon: May I know whether there is any truth in the complaint that has been appearing in the local newspapers in Kerala that there is no proper co-operation of the

Centre with the State in the supply of rice?

Shri A. P. Jain: I believe the hon. Member will agree that if there is any such propaganda, it is a very mischievous propaganda, not good for the Kerala State.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether it is a fact that Government is procuring rice stocks in the State of Andhra because, under the conditions stipulated in the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, the Government is obliged to pay the average price in the previous years? The Government has to pay a very high price for the rice which price could not be obtained by selling the rice to the consumers.

Shri A. P. Jain: After all, this Parliament has passed this law. The law has the approval of this Parliament and all I can do is to operate upon the law. The Parliament decided that when we make the procurement, we shall have to pay the average price prevailing during the previous three months. That is what we are doing. I think it is an essentially good law, because it does not fix an arbitrary price, but it puts a limit to the rise in prices.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Every day, the food question comes up. What can I do? How many questions can be answered?

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Because food is a daily necessity.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members have had a debate on the President's Address, again on the Budget, again on food. Almost every week this comes up.

Shri Tangamani: The import of rice is going to be stopped in respect of Madras from 1st October. That is a very serious matter.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members can only elicit an answer. The hon. Minister has said that a separate

southern zone has been created. Hitherto, whatever quantity has been exported from Andhra, which was a surplus area, will now be confined and be allowed to circulate amongst the Kerala and other States in the south; and on account of this they are not importing or allowing any import. Are we going today to have a debate on this? The answer has been given.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: One question regarding the price of rice.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: One question.

Mr. Speaker: I shall allow the hon. lady Member.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: Thank you, Sir. The hon. Minister made a statement that after the formation of the southern zone, they are going to stop giving imported rice to the southern zone. May I ask, how Government can reach this decision without first examining the position sufficiently long enough and finding out whether there is sufficient rice there as a result of the formation of the zone?

Shri A. P. Jain: In the first place, the interpretation put by the hon. lady Member to the answer which I gave is wrong. What I said was that we are going to stop supply of rice with effect from 1st October in Madras and Mysore and as regards Andhra we are going to continue the supplies but at a reduced scale. The prices in Andhra today are the lowest in the country except in Orissa.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: That is no answer.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

तार जांच समिति

*१६६१. श्री अक्षय वर्शन : क्या परिषद तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कुछ समय पहले जो तार जांच समिति नियुक्त की गई थी उसने अपने कार्य में इस बीच क्या प्रगति की है?

परिषद तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : इस समिति का कार्य ५ जून, १९५७ से प्रारम्भ हुआ, जबकि इस समिति के मंत्री ने अपना कार्य-भार संभाला। इस समिति की प्रथम बैठक १२ जुलाई से १६ जुलाई, १९५७ तक हुई, जिसमें प्रारम्भिक प्रश्नावली (Preliminary Questionnaire) को अन्तिम रूप दे दिया गया है। सर्व सम्बन्धियों के पास इस प्रश्नावली की छपी हुई प्रतियां ६ अगस्त १९५७ को भेज दी गयी हैं। इस प्रश्नावली के उत्तर भी आने लग गये हैं। इस समिति की आगामी बैठक १९ सितम्बर से २५ सितम्बर, १९५७ तक बम्बई में होनी निश्चित हुई है।

श्री भवन वर्शन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह समिति देर से देर कब तक अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत कर देगी?

श्री राज बहादुर : इस को कई स्थानों को जाना पड़ेगा, कई मुविधाओं को देखना पड़ेगा और कई मस्यौदों में बालवीत करनी पड़ेगी। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह समिति ४, ६ महीने में अपना काम खत्म कर लेगी ऐसी आशा की जानी चाहिए।

श्री भवन वर्शन . पिछले दिनों इस विभाग के कर्मचारियों ने जो "गो स्लो" (धीमे चलो) की नीति अपनाई थी, उसके कारण देश को बड़ा धक्का पहुंचा था, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस समिति को यह भी आदेश दिया गया है कि कोई ऐसे उपाय सुझाये जायें जिससे कि इस तरीके की घटनाएँ न होने पायें?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं समझता हूँ कि जो कुछ भी घटनाएँ गिछे घटें हैं और जो कुछ भी आज इस सेवा में त्रुटियाँ या कमियाँ आई हैं, उन सब के ऊपर यह समिति ध्यान देगी ताकि इस सेवा को अच्छा से अच्छा बनाया जा सके।

श्री अक्षय वर्शन : क्या गवर्नमेंट की जानकारी में यह बात है कि तार और टेलीफोन