

(ix) Opening of fair price shops for supply of cheap food-grains.

(x) Augmenting of water supply by digging up *zirrahs* in beds of rivers and nullahs; bunding of streams and nullahs; deepening of public wells in rural areas and advance of suitable grants for the purpose; advance of *faccavi* for construction of new wells.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether the Government is in a position to give us the acreage of land that is being affected by this famine?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The State Government has collected figures about the villages affected. I have not got the figures about the acreage.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: Have the Government any estimate of the number of labourers who have been affected?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): All the labourers living in that area are affected.

सेठ अचल सिंह : यूनिवर्न सरकार में अगर कहीं पर अकाल पड़ जाय तो क्या रिलीफ देने की सेण्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट की जिम्मेदारी है ?

डा० पी० ए० देशमुख : विल्कुल नहीं ।

साध तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किदवाई) : जिम्मेदारी वहीं की है ।

Shri Jasani: May I know whether the State Government has approached the Central Government for any help?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not so far.

श्री भटकर : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि मिनिस्टर साहब के वहाँ जाने के बाद लोगों की हालत और भी खराब हुई ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is true, Sir. A few more villages have been affected.

श्री भटकर : रायलसीमा और मैसूर के मुजाफिक हम जैसे कम चिल्लाने वाले लोगों के हिस्से पर भी क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से मिलने वाली मदद मिलेगी ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Government tries to follow the same principles with respect to all areas.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should a famine elsewhere be quoted here?

श्री भटकर : नेशनल हाइवेज का नांदुरा और मलकापुर हिस्से का काम शुरू करने के लिये क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट विचार कर रही है ताकि लोगों को काम मिले ?

डा० पी० ए० देशमुख : इस का सम्बन्ध दूसरा मिनिस्ट्री से है, वह इस पर विचार करेगी ।

श्री जी० बी० खटकर : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि बरार में पीने को पानी नहीं मिलता है ?

डा० पी० ए० देशमुख : बरार में भी ऐसी स्थिति है और और जगह भी है ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member comes from the same area. He can well look after it. Next question.

CONFISCATION OF PUBLICATIONS IN U. S. A. SENT THROUGH POST

*1304. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any relief is given to publishers in this country who send literature on orders from book-sellers in the U.S.A. by post and are intimated that the literature sent is confiscated in the country of destination;

(b) whether under the Universal Postal Convention it is open to any country to confiscate goods sent legally through the post of another country without notifying previously the postal authorities of the latter country that certain specified literature or class of literature are denied entry through postal agency; and

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the confiscation in the United States of America of certain publications sent legally through the post by People's Publishing House Limited of Bombay?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, if confiscation is of goods the circulation of which is prohibited in the country of destination. The Indian Post Office accepts no responsibility

in this matter. The onus of ensuring compliance with any restrictions imposed by the country of destination on importation or circulation of certain goods in that country, rests with the senders.

(b) Under Article 49 sl(d) of the Universal Postal Convention, it is forbidden to send by post articles of which the importation or circulation is forbidden in the country of destination and according to the same Article, if packets containing such articles have been wrongly admitted to the post, they are treated according to the internal regulations of the Administration which discovers them.

(c) Government's attention has been drawn to the confiscation in U.S.A. of certain publications, but it is not entirely correct to say that they were sent legally through the post. According to the reports received the publications in question were considered by the Government of U.S.A. to have been sent to that country in contravention of the prohibition imposed by that Government. As stated in reply to part (a) of the question it was the responsibility of the sender to have made sure that the import of publications into U.S.A. was permitted.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do I take it that if any literature is sent by post and is accepted by our postal authorities, and on account of certain United States regulations it is not allowed entry into that country, such literature is not returned and the business people concerned have to suffer a great deal of inconvenience and trouble?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what he has said. It is open to any Government to confiscate any literature and prevent it from getting into its territory if such literature is of a prohibited character.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The question of confiscation has not arisen in this case, because the United States Government has not told the senders of this literature that it is being confiscated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They will publish a list. Who will send it to all the hon. Members here?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is for the Government of the country of destination to declare which literature it considers to be of a prohibited nature. It is for them to decide about it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is their jurisdiction.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Does it, therefore, mean that under the Universal Postal Convention when people who send articles under the impression that they are absolutely above board and legal, they find them confiscated, there is no possibility of compensation?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Ignorance does not protect anybody from law.

RICE AND WHEAT CONSUMING POPULATION

***1305. Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rice consuming and wheat consuming population in India;

(b) whether the existing supply of rice and wheat is in keeping with the demand of consumers' dietary habits; and

(c) if not, whether in importing foodgrains for 1953, Government propose to meet the consumers' demand in keeping with their dietary habits?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Foodgrains produced in India are consumed in varying proportions in different parts of the country and it is not possible to correctly estimate the percentage of rice consuming or wheat consuming population.

(b) In this country where a major portion of the population is not under rationing, it is difficult to estimate whether the availability of each kind of grain is in consonance with the dietary habits of the population. Generally it may be stated that the availability of rice is not sufficient to meet the country's requirements.

(c) Yes, as far as possible.

Shri Jangde: May I know whether the percentage of rice consuming population has decreased owing to the shortage of rice during the last three years?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We shall hope so.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: How is it that we have been given the total consumption in the Five Year Plan? On what basis has it been calculated?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): They have been calculated on the basis of availability. They have presumed what will be the