

consider this kind of publication to be prejudicial to the economic interests of the country?

Mr. Speaker: Is it a Government publication?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: It is an association publication.

Mr. Speaker: Anybody may publish anything.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Moreover that was not on barter basis. I do not think the information got by the hon. Member is correct.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know why the Government of India does not work out and publish the comparative statistics in regard to the cost of foodgrains we get from different countries, so that the country may come to a decision which are the areas from which we ought to import foodgrains if we need them?

Shri Kidwai: There were some disputes about prices of certain things and the matter is still under arbitration in Russia.

RICE AGREEMENT WITH BURMA

*488. **Shri Balakrishnan:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an agreement made with Burma Government for the purchase of rice was cancelled?

(b) If so, what were the reasons for the cancellation of the agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Balakrishnan: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister may we take it that there is an agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Burma, and, if so, may I know what are the terms and conditions of the agreement?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There is an agreement entered into between the Governments of India and Burma according to which Burma has promised to supply 3,50,000 tons of rice every year.

Shri Balakrishnan: May I know whether the whole quantity of rice is purchased through the Burma Government or a part of it is purchased through private trade?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): According to the agreement, part of the quantity is Government to Government transaction; and part will be released to trade for export to India.

Shri Dabhi: Is the Burma Government acting according to the terms of the agreement?

Shri Kidwai: Yes. We are thankful to the Burma Government for supplying us more grains than agreed to.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Does this agreement include also broken rice?

Shri Kidwai: Agreement is not broken rice!

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is whether the agreement also includes broken rice?

COLOURISATION OF VANASPATI

*489. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what impediments still stand in the use of the colouring compound shown to be effective for latent colourisation of vanaspati by the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Investigations on thymolphthalein, the compound suggested by the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona for the latent colourisation of vanaspati, have not yet been completed, particularly in respect of its physiological effects on the human system. Latent colourisation of vanaspati is, however, being done at present by the addition of sesame oil.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Are Government committed to colourise it?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No commitment has been made.

Shri Dabhi: Is it a fact that according to the Ghee Adulteration Committee, latent colourisation is not found to be very useful for laymen?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is so.

PANDIT COMMITTEE'S REPORT

*491. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state which of the recommendations of the Pandit Committee on Indigenous System of Medicines other than the opening of a Research Centre at Jamnagar have been accepted by Government?