

Shri Jaipal Singh: What is the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Master Committee in this work?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Rs. 77,000/.

Shri G. P. Sinha: How many foreigners are employed in this country as pilots?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Their number is less than 20.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know how long Government propose to take to complete the examination of this Master Committee's Report?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may submit for the information of the hon. Member that the minute of some of the important Members of the Committee was not received earlier. We received it only last week or the week before last.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether these air pilots who are not employed now will be considered as employees of the Air Corporation when it will be nationalised because Government bear half the expenses of the training?

Shri Raj Bahadur: How is it possible for those who are not employed by the air companies at the moment to be considered as employees of the Air Corporation when it comes into being?

Shri Jaipal Singh: Is it a fact that this very important member of the Master Committee is no less than the Director General of Civil Aviation himself who is no longer the DGCA?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not proper for me to give out the name.

Shri Punnoose: In view of the number of unemployed pilots now on the list, is it in the consideration of Government to restrict the number of new recruits to be trained?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No. We want to encourage flying but we want to leave it to the discretion of such trainees who want to take up the profession of flying. We will leave it to their own judgment.

ALL-INDIA RAILWAYS MINISTERIAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

*1787. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the grounds for refusing recognition to the All India Railway Ministerial Staff Association?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The ground for declining to accord recognition to the All India Railway Ministerial Staff Association is that it is a Sectional Union and it is not the policy of the Railway Board to recognise Sectional Unions.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know how, in this view of the matter, recognition has already been granted to Class II Railway Officers' Association and the Association of Stenographers?

Shri Sah Nawaz Khan: That is so, Sir, but the rules under which recognition is granted to Class II Central Government gazetted officers are quite different from those applicable to non-gazetted officers.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know whether these Associations are sectional or not?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): There is a difference between an Association and a Union. The Associations are generally formed by gazetted officers. They are entitled to form Associations but Associations have only the right to make a representation whereas the Unions can put forward demands and pursue the matter further. They can negotiate with the Railway authorities and the Railway Board. In so far as non-gazetted employees are concerned, they are entitled to form unions. Recognition is given to Associations. But, in regard to Unions, we have made it a rule that we do not encourage the formation of nor give recognition to sectional unions.

PROCUREMENT OF RICE IN U.P.

*1788. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether procurement of paddy through State agency has been stopped in U.P.?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for the same?

(c) What is the estimated surplus of rice in U.P.?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnaappa): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The price of U.P. rice is comparatively high and as disclosed by questions in the House on several occasions, recipient States are reluctant to pay this high price.

(c) There are no data on the basis of which an estimate of surplus can be given with any accuracy, but it was expected that they would procure about 40,000 tons during the course of the year.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether there is any other State in the country wherein there is surplus, and where there is no procurement through Government agency?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The procurement system varies in the different provinces. In Orissa, it is by the Government, in Madhya Pradesh, it is a levy on trade. In other States like Bengal, it is a levy both on trade and mills. Thus procurement differs in the different States.

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is not my question.

Shri T. N. Singh: On a point of order, Sir, how far is this answer to part (b) of the question relevant as given by the Deputy Minister? The question asked was about the procurement of paddy through State agency in the U.P. What has the price in other States got to do with this? Has the U.P. Government given such reasons that it is given here as reply to part (b) of the question? I want to know on what authority this reply has been given to part (b) of the question, and how far it can be relevant.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not irrelevant. Hon. Members take advantage—some of them, not generally. I am not casting any aspersion—whenever with respect to any particular matter in any particular State some question is put, and immediately ask what happens in my State. That is the range of questions. I have been allowing these questions if they relate to food because all are interested, particularly when the hon. Minister has some information. Hereafter, I shall see that no such questions are asked or answered.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri T. N. Singh: My point was only this. Probably, I have not been properly understood by you. The question was, what were the reasons for the State to abandon the State agency system of procurement in the U.P. The State must have got its own reasons, I want to know the reply to that. That was the question. The reply does not give the State's reasons,

but gives the Government of India's reasons.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I will give the reasons. The procurement in the U.P. was abandoned at our initiative also, not only on the initiative of the State. So, we have given the reason why we have abandoned procurement in the U.P.: the first reason being that the recipient States are reluctant to receive that high priced rice and the second being that we do not want to drain the deficit districts of the U.P.

Shri A. M. Thomas: My supplementary question was not with regard to the method of procurement. My question was whether there is any other State in the country where there is surplus and procurement is not being made through Government agency.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No. There is no State which is surplus, where no procurement is being made. We procure grains from all surplus States.

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is, through Government agency?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Not exactly through Government agency. In some places, it is by Government agency; in some other places, semi-Government; in some other places, by a levy on trade. That is what I stated in answer.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know whether the high price of U.P. rice is due to procurement through private agency?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No. The ruling market price in the U.P. is always higher than in any other place in India, because of its fine quality. There is one more thing that I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members. It is only one variety of rice in U.P. which is costlier than others; the prices of other varieties are on par with the prices in the rest of the country. It is only the Dehra Dun rice which is almost a myth, a very fine variety that is costlier.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This has been answered a dozen times.

Shri Punnoose: One question, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. This has been repeatedly asked. Next question.

* TUBE-WELLS

*1789. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total number of tube-wells sunk by the Central Tube Wells Sub-Division and at what cost?