

(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?

(b) At what cost are the tube wells being sunk by "Associated Tube Wells" and other foreign firms?

(c) Was full opportunity afforded to Indian firms to undertake this work before offering it to foreign firm?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**

(a) 24 tubewells of an average depth of 160 feet have been constructed by the tube-well Sub-division at a total cost of Rs. 1,43,286/- which represents the actual expenditure on tube-wells plus establishment, depreciation and maintenance charges on drilling equipment. This expenditure is exclusive of the cost of pump set and transformer.

(b) Rs. 29,000 for Standard tube-well of 300 feet depth duly installed with pump-set and transformer.

(c) Yes.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know whether the work was done on a no-profit-no-loss basis, and if not, what was the total loss incurred?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is done on a no-profit-no-loss basis. There is no loss incurred.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** With reference to the reply to part (c) of the question, may I know whether it is a fact that the Associated Tube Wells were asked to construct tube-wells in the U.P. at the instance of the Government of India without reference to what others were prepared to do for the same cost or a lower cost?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I want notice.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know the average area irrigated by a tube-well?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It depends upon the capacity of the tube-well. In some places, it irrigates 250 to 300 acres. For example, some tube-wells near Ghaziabad, a place 15 miles from here, irrigate about 250 to 300 acres. There, the capacity of a tube-well is 40,000 gallons per hour. The capacity of a tube-well depends upon the water it is able to pick up.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know what other firms were given an opportunity to construct tube-wells which were given to the Associated Tube Wells for construction?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** They are all foreign companies.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The names of the companies that is what I want to know.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Associated Tube-Wells 250; German Water Development Corporation 500 wells; Harold T. Smith 200 in U.P., 255 in the Punjab and 300 in PEPSU.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** The Associated Tube Wells had nothing to do with the construction of tube-wells in the Punjab and PEPSU. They were all in U.P. and Bihar. I think the answer is irrelevant and incorrect.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is not for the hon. Member to say that it is irrelevant and incorrect.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members take the law into their own hands. Hon. Members ought not to cast aspersions. Sometimes, hon. Ministers, with a view to avoid repeated questions or more supplementaries, try to make the answer as full as possible. What they expect is sometimes a disqualification.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** My submission was only with regard to the question on tube-wells.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member must draw the attention of the Chair to the irrelevancy and not decide himself whether it is irrelevant or relevant.

**Shri Bansal:** May I know if the Associated Tube Wells are manufacturing Bore hole pumps or are importing from abroad?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** I want notice.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know if the Indian Tube Well Co., in Bombay—I do not remember the name—had submitted any tenders for U.P. and Bihar?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Only three Indian companies had submitted. I do not know whether this Bombay company is one of them.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know if any of these companies have monopoly rights in any area?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** No monopoly rights.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Is the cost of constructing the tube-wells by the different companies so far as U.P. is concerned, the same?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The contract is the same: Rs. 29,000 for each tube-well. The cost of construction of

each well depends upon the soil conditions.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether the Government have the whole picture of the needs of the country in regard to tube-wells and may I know also whether they have received any representation from Travancore-Cochin in this regard?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It has been already stated on the floor of the House that an agreement has been reached between India and the U.S. to explore the possibilities of water supply in various parts of this country. In Travancore-Cochin also, about 5 wells will be dug. The possibility of digging more will be explored.

**Shri Thanú Pillai:** On a point of order, Sir. Has the remark "irrelevant" been withdrawn, or does it stand?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What he said and what I said, both will stand.

**Shri Thanu Pillai:** May I know whether the use of that word is in order?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He said that some explanation or answer by the Minister was irrelevant. Then I pointed out that hon. Members ought not to decide the irrelevancy themselves, but only draw the attention of the Chair. There the matter ends. That will be a ruling for the future also.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### LOCO-DRIVERS AND FIREMEN

\*1761. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Loco-drivers and Firemen working on similar trains, having the same period of service are paid different scales of pay on the basis of, Matriculates or non-Matriculates and if so, why;

(b) whether there is discontent against this disparity, and if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the implementation of the Central Pay Commission scales has adversely affected large sections of Loco Running Staff; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). Yes. This is because of the introduction of minimum qualification of Matriculation for the directly recruited upper grade Firemen and the creation of a separate channel of promotion for such staff. This was administratively necessary to improve the quality of Loco Running Staff available for promotion to higher supervisory posts. Representations were received and have been considered. Genuine grounds of grievance have been removed.

(c) No. The scales of pay and total emoluments of Running Staff have improved in practically all cases as a result of the implementation of the Central Pay Commission scales.

(d) Does not arise.

##### FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

\*1762. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether family members of Railway employees are denied free medical treatment in the Railway Hospitals and if so, since when and why?

(b) How does the system of grant of medical aid to Railway employees and their families work on the open lines so far as relief granted is concerned?

(c) What is the rate of dispensary and doctor available for every thousand employees?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No. The dependants of railway servants for purposes of medical attendance and treatment include their wives, children and step-children residing with and wholly dependent upon them and they are entitled to free medical treatment in Railway Hospitals on the same scale and conditions as Railway servants themselves.

(b) Railway employees and their families on the open lines are getting medical aid on the same scale and conditions as applicable to staff who are stationed at headquarters. Medical aid is rendered by the Assistant Surgeons attached to Railway dispensaries on receipt of intimation from the nearest road side Station Master and the patient is treated at his station but if hospitalization is required, this is arranged.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.