

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how the price of rice imported from Pakistan will compare with that imported from Burma, China, etc.?

Shri Kidwai: The price is much lower than that for rice imported from Burma, Siam, China or from anywhere else in the world.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the wheat supplied to Pakistan was indigenous wheat or imported wheat?

Shri Kidwai: Ships on the way were diverted to Pakistan.

Shri Heda: What are the prospects of another deal this time?

Shri Kidwai: As Pakistan has decided to reduce the rates for Japan 1:2, we do not expect any further deal.

NON-PAYMENT OF SUGAR-CANE PRICES TO GROWERS IN BIHAR

*1259. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many cane growers of Bihar who supplied sugar canes to the various sugar mills of their area have not received payment of their canes from the mills last year?

(b) If so, have Government any idea about the amount of the said money lying with the sugar mills of Bihar?

(c) Have some steps been taken to ensure payments to the cane growers?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Out of the total amount of Rs. 10.19 crores due from mills on account of price of cane supplied in 1951-52 season, a sum of only Rs. 1.5 lakhs remained unpaid on 15-3-53. This small balance represents mainly sums due on account of disputed or lost cane receipts, and no further action to expedite payment is considered necessary.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the cane growers did not get the necessary permits from the Mills even this year and as a result of which, thousands of acres of cane are still standing in the field and will not be harvested before the closing of this present season?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): If the hon. Member gives me details, I will forward them to the Bihar Government for necessary action.

Shri Altekar: In what time do the farmers get the price after the cane is supplied?

Shri Kidwai: Sometimes the same day; ordinarily within a week. But, last year, they had to wait for months.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या यह सही है कि सुगौली मिल के पार्टनर्स के बीच में जगड़ा होने के कारण और एक पार्टनर के पाकिस्तान में चले जाने के कारण पार साल और इस साल शुगरकेन प्रोडर्स को ऊब के दाम नहीं मिले ?

श्री किशोर्षी : आपकी इतला गालिबन सही होगी, मुझे मालूम नहीं ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Jaipal Singh:

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या जानरेबल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information. I have already called Mr. Jaipal Singh.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In view of the fact that the amount unpaid is to the tune of one and odd crores,...

Shri Kidwai: 1.5 lakhs.

Shri Jaipal Singh: ... may we know the reasons why Government have considered it not necessary to take any action?

Shri Kidwai: The reason is, the amount is admittedly due and is not being paid. There is some dispute and the State Governments are looking into it.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether Government have received similar complaints from other States?

Shri Kidwai: What about?

Shri Nanadas: To the effect that...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no. The question refers to non-payment in Bihar.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if, on account of late payment of the price of sugar cane in the last season and also during the current season...

Shri Kidwai: Not in the current season.

Shri Sarangadhar Das:...may I know if there is any apprehension that the area planted for the next crushing

season may be lower than in the season now ending?

Shri Kidwai: I don't think so.

RICE RATION FROM RAILWAY GRAINSHOPS

*1260. **Shri Namblar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railwaymen are now being given 4 ozs. of Rice ration from the Railway Grainshops on the Southern Railway system and if so, why;

(b) whether there is a demand from Railwaymen to give 12 ozs. of Rice ration from the Railway Grainshops at the fair-price shops rates and if so, what action has been taken; and

(c) whether it is the policy of the Railway administration to encourage supply of commodities through the Railway Grainshops and Co-operative credits institutions?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Railway employees who draw cereal ration at non-concessional rates from the Railway Grainshops situated in the Madras State get 4 oz. of rice in their cereal ration as the scale and composition of ration for such employees conform to that obtaining in the Government Fair Price Shops functioning in the area.

(b) Such a demand was made in June 1952 but Government could not agree to adopt a scale different from that obtaining in the Fair Price Shops.

(c) Railway Grainshops deal only with a limited number of commodities and are also meant mainly for employees who are entitled to grainshop concessions. Government have more than once made clear their intention to encourage the growth of Co-operative Stores on Railways.

Shri Namblar: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Railway staff in the Madras State are requesting the Government to give more rations than four ounces in view of the fact that rationing is now cancelled in Madras State?

Shri Alagesan: But they are free to buy in the open market. Rice and other things are all freely available.

Shri Namblar: May I know whether there is any difference between the prices in the fair price shops and prices outside? If not, why more rice is not supplied to Railway workers?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is making a suggestion. He may ask a question. Is there any difference?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, there is a difference. In some places there it is lower.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Is it a fact that these co-operative credit institutions are not working properly because proper help is not being given to popularise the scheme by the Government?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know whether the hon. Member is referring to Railway co-operative societies.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Of course.

Shri Alagesan: Recently an officer has gone into the working of these societies and his recommendations are under consideration.

Shri Namblar: In view of the fact that the prices outside are higher than in the Railway grainshops, may I know whether the grainshops will issue more than four ounces of rice?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is making a suggestion which will be considered by Government.

Shri Namblar: This is part of my question.

Shri Alagesan: As far as the concessional cardholders are concerned, they are getting their scale of rations which is more—7 ounces of rice and 5 ounces of wheat and/or millets.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether the employees who have opted for grainshop concessions are getting the same as four ounces or are they getting anything more? If so, how much?

Shri Alagesan: Just now I said they are getting more—7 ounces of rice and 5 ounces of wheat and/or millets.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether the rations supplied by general controlled shops is more or less than the quota supplied to Railway employees in Madras?

Shri Alagesan: They are equal.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know what reasons Government have for continuing to call these Railway grainshops fair shops, when obviously from the reply the hon. Minister has given, they are unfair shops?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Unfair in their favour.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to supply only the partial needs of these Railway workers through these grainshops?