

(c) whether any relaxation of control on foodgrains has been made in any other state on or after 1st December, 1952; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the extent to which such relaxation has been made?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) Restrictions on the movement, sale and possession of millets and other coarse grains in the rural areas (i.e. areas other than towns and cities with more than 30,000 population and five statutorily rationed towns of Ratnagiri District) have been withdrawn from 2nd December, 1952. Movement, trade and possession of these commodities will be completely free in the rural areas except that those who store more than 15 mds. should take out a licence and submit periodical returns. Levy on millets and other coarse grains has also been discontinued.

(c) In West Bengal and Punjab.

(d) *West Bengal:* The old system of procurement has been replaced by (i) a levy on all holdings of 10 acres and more, and (ii) a levy on rice mills outside Calcutta industrial area to the extent of 1/3 of all purchases made by them. Inter-district cordon has been removed and rice and paddy allowed to move freely within the state except into and from statutory rationed areas. Statutory rationing has also been withdrawn from Asansol and Khatagpur.

Punjab: Statutory rationing is being replaced by fair price shops in four towns of Hoshiarpur, Gurgaon, Rewari and Hissar.

Shri Dabhi: In view of the fact that statutory rationing of foodgrains has been given up in Madras which is a deficit State, may I know the exact reason for not taking a similar action in Bombay State?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Deficits vary, Sir.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Bombay is more heavily deficit than Madras and Bengal.

Shri Dabhi: May I know if there are any special difficulties in giving up statutory rationing in the State of Bombay, excluding the four industrial cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona and Sholapur?

Shri Kidwai: Many districts in Bombay are deficit. Therefore, unless

sufficient grain has been supplied for the deficit districts, on a larger scale than the rationed scale, further relaxation cannot take place.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the names of the areas where statutory rationing exists and at the same time people are allowed to purchase from fair price shops, and the areas where there is no such thing allowed?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Wherever there is statutory rationing of twelve ounces, free movement of foodgrains from outside is not allowed.

Shri Veeraswamy: What is the impression of the Central Government with regard to the food situation in Madras State after the lifting of rationing?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This does not relate to Madras State at all.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether there is any ban on the export of millets from Srikakulam district in the North to the southern districts in Madras State?

Shri Kidwai: I do not know anything about it.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government of India to have the same result as is in Madras after de-control, that is famine, starvation and deaths?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Let us not enter into arguments.

FOOD MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

*48. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there had been a Conference of the Food Ministers of the various States;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the purpose of the Conference;

(c) the subjects discussed at the Conference;

(d) the decisions, if any, arrived at by the Conference;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Food Ministers expressed their views in favour of further relaxation of controls on foodgrains; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, whether Government contemplate taking any steps in the light of the views expressed by the Food Ministers?

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

(b) and (c). To discuss the present food situation in the country with special reference to the following:

(i) Restricting imports of foodgrains to the minimum and limiting the allotments from the Centre only to highly deficit areas and measures necessary for giving effect to this.

(ii) Other essential matters, such as anti-hoarding; etc.

(iii) Composite foods prepared by Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, for relief in distressed areas.

(iv) Present position regarding cultivable waste lands and steps to be taken for bringing them into cultivation.

(v) Distribution of fertilizers.

(d) (i) It was agreed to restrict imports of foodgrains to the minimum and limit the allotments from the Centre only to highly deficit areas;

(ii) to launch strict drive against hoarding;

(iii) to attempt to bring more and more waste lands to cultivation; and

(iv) to make the process of distribution of fertilizers to peasants more direct.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

Shri Dabhi: Did any Food Minister or Ministers express the opinion in that conference that the ban on inter-state movement of foodgrains should be removed with a view to making fuller supply to all the States?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: About relaxation of controls nothing was said; except that it has given a relief to the people.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What exactly were the decisions at this Food Ministers' Conference on the question of fuller utilisation of cultivable waste lands?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Steps are to be taken for the proper distribution, assessment and survey of these waste lands and their distribution to landless labourers.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether these lands are to be distributed to individuals or on a basis of co-operative farming?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Both to individuals and to co-operative farms; that is the recommendation made.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Ministers present made any demands with regard to their requirement of foodgrains?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): That is what they were there for!

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Food Research Institute, Mysore is manufacturing synthetic food products and, if so, whether they are distributed now in various areas?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: All that I know about the synthetic products is that they are able to manufacture a mixture called 'Mysore Mixture'. If the hon. Member wants more information he can directly put a question to my hon. friend Mr. Malaviya.

Shri T. N. Singh: In terms of the requirements expressed by the States can the hon. Minister let us know what will be the responsibility of the Centre in terms of foodgrains quantitatively?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The supply will be according to the actual requirements in each State and not in response to the demands that they make.

Shri T. N. Singh: Have Government made any actual estimate of the demands?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, but I think another question is coming in the next few days when we can give the details.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether on the consideration given to the requirements any decision has been taken with regard to the allotment?

Shri Kidwai: We are allotting each day to different States what they require immediately.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Among the steps taken and considered at the conference I find that no mention is made about profiteering. May I know whether at this conference any steps to control profiteering were considered?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have got our Central Foodgrains Licensing and Procurement Order of 1952, and we are of the opinion that all those provisions,

if they are strictly enforced, will stop hoarding in the country.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is not the question. My question is whether at this conference any steps were taken or considered to prevent profiteering and not hoarding. They may have ever so many things...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that there is a statutory order.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I am also aware of it. My question is whether a special reference to this matter was made at the conference.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are satisfied with the existing provisions.

Shri Nanadas: In distributing land to landless labour have Government fixed any targets?

Shri Kidwai: Each State will do what is required in that State.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the State of West Bengal has asked for any food quota for the rural deficit areas?

Shri Kidwai: They have asked for the State as a whole and not for the rural or urban areas.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India is aware of the fact that certain steps taken by certain State Governments have not, in any way, gone to improve the question of assigning lands to agricultural labour?

Shri Kidwai: That question should be asked in the Madras Legislative Council or Assembly. I may convey this question to all the States.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a State question.

Shri Raghavaiah: Sir, this relates to the Centre.

MALARIA

*51. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what schemes, if any, have been launched under the Indo-U.S. Project for control of malaria?

(b) In which places are centres going to be opened for anti-malarial operations?

(c) Have the localities been selected after any survey of the incidence of malaria?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The Government of India in co-operation with the Technical Co-operation Administration and various State Governments are launching a 'National Malaria Control Scheme' in India, in which all States except Rajasthan are participating. The Scheme consists of an 'Operational' period up to 1955-56 and a subsequent 'Maintenance' period. Seventy-five control units will be functioning in different States in 1953-54 which will be increased to 125 units during 1954-55 and 1955-56. Each unit will protect about one million people from Malaria.

(b) The centres to be opened for anti-malarial operations will be selected by State Governments in their areas.

(c) The localities have been selected or will be selected by the State Governments in accordance with the malaria incidence data available to them.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know what is the estimated cost?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Is that the total cost you want? The total estimated cost for the scheme is Rs. 10 crores.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know the total number of centres to be selected in Madras and the amount to be granted to the State Government of Madras?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The question of allotment of units in Madras has not been yet settled.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the allotment is made according to the Centre's needs or statewide?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Allotment is made according to what the States ask for and how much can be given to them in view of the number of units available.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether the selection of centres is purely left to the discretion of the State Governments concerned.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Naturally it has to be left to the discretion of the State Governments because State Governments are responsible for the payment of staff, labour etc. for running their own shows.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: In view of the Indo-U.S. project for control of malaria, may I know whether the U.S. experts have brought a special kind of mosquito into India and, if so, what it carries with it?