

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is only an argument.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are giving purchasing power to the people by starting relief works.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know in what parts of the country the prices of foodgrains are below the issue price in the fair price shops at the present time?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In some places in Madras, it is below the issue price.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether it is a fact that recently the price of rice was increased in Malabar?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is true that in some parts of the country the prices did not come down as much as we expected. It is also true that the prices did not soar up as much as my hon. friend feared.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the prevailing prices of indigenous wheat and rice in the different States?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I can give it; it is a big statement.

Shri Nambiar: On a point of clarification, I asked a question as to whether there was a recent increase in the price of rice in Malabar.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think he answered that.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It has been answered.

Shri V. P. Nayar: He did not answer that, Sir.

Shri Kidwai: The answer was that the price has not gone down so much as we were expecting, but the price has not also risen as much as some hon. Members wished.

Shri Nambiar: Whether there was a rise in the price in Malabar, is the question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is; but it is not so much as to be appalling. Next question.

UDAIPUR-HIMMAT NAGAR RAILWAY LINE

***55. Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question

No. 688 asked on the 15th December, 1952 and state:

(a) whether the proposal of constructing a new railway line from Udaipur to Himmat Nagar or Modasa has been finalised or approved by the Central Board of Transport;

(b) whether Government have received any deputations from the States of Bombay and Rajasthan demanding the immediate construction of this Railway line; and

(c) whether Government intend to take up construction of this Railway line in the year 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (c). The reply is in the negative.

(b) Yes.

POINT FOUR AID FUNDS (MALARIA)

***57. Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been entered into between the Governments of India and U.S.A. to use Point Four Aid funds to help India to provide protection against Malaria;

(b) what is the nature and extent of the aid; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Agreement?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes. Two agreements have so far been signed, one for the year 1952-53 and the other for 1953-54.

(b) The aid will be in the form of DDT, equipment, transport and anti-malarial drugs. The amount of assistance allocated by the Government of the United States of America is \$-648 million during 1952-53 and \$5.2 million during 1953-54.

(c) Copies of Operation Agreement No. 9 relating to 1952-53 have already been placed on the Table of the House in reply to unstarred Question No. 253 dated the 25th June, 1952. Copies of the Supplement to Operation Agreement No. 9 which relates to the year 1953-54 have also since been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question-hour is over.