

there is hardly any arrangement for restaurants, for platform covers or waiting rooms and the third class compartments are far worse than on other lines?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, as far as passenger amenities are concerned, on way-side stations between Sealdah and Ranaghat, platform covers and passengers waiting sheds are already available. Drinking water and latrines etc. are also there. The way-side stations between Ranaghat and Bongaon are not however provided with platform covers. Waiting sheds and drinking water facilities are available. If the hon. Member has any particular suggestions they will be considered.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not true that quite a number of trains are detained at those stations for near about 2 hours as these stations are treated as terminus stations within the territory of India, for changing trains engines and examining passports etc.?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have that information, Sir. I cannot say whether it is correct or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Members are all interested in getting information on various matters. If they can write to the Ministers and if still they are not able to get sufficient information then they may put down those questions. Generally questions may be put on the floor of the House. No hon. Minister can be expected to carry all the details in his memory.

Shri A. C. Guha: I have already written to the Minister on this point. I have not got any reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You must write sufficiently early.

ALLOCATIONS OF RICE EXPORT QUOTA FROM BURMA

*240. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what were the allocations of rice export quota from Burma to India in the first, second, third and fourth quarters in 1952 (quarter-wise);

(b) whether all the allocations have been received by India; and

(c) what were the corresponding allocations and receipts in those quarters in the years 1948 and 1950?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The allocations of export quotas of rice from Burma are not made quarterly.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether these allocations are made half-yearly?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Beginning from 1948-49, the allocations were made by the International Food Council and they were half-yearly allocations.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said the other day that negotiations were going on for the purchase of Burma rice on a barter basis. May I know which are the goods that are proposed to be exchanged?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): We do not know yet.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I wanted to know the amount quarter-wise. Can the hon. Minister give it at least year-wise?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, Sir. In 1948 and 1949 the allocations were made by the International Emergency Food Council. In 1948, 5,77,638 tons were allotted to India. In 1949, 4,03,411 tons were allotted. For 1950 and 1951 no allocations were done by that body. We made purchases directly. In 1950, we purchased 2,80,000 tons. In 1951, we purchased 2,40,000 tons. From 1952 onwards, we entered into an agreement with Burma for four years, according to which we were allocated 3,50,000 tons of rice last year.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Has this allocation been made through the F.A.O. or direct by the Burma Government to the India Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There is no International Rice Organisation or Market now, and we get it directly from Burma.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Has any part of the national debt against Burma been adjusted when importing rice from Burma?

Shri Kidwai: That is a separate question.

WHEAT RUSTS

*241. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the kinds of wheat rusts that occur in India?

(b) What is the damage done to the crops during the last five years?

(c) How far our research institutes have been successful in devising methods for controlling this pest?

(d) Is any other country faced by the same problem, and has any other country evolved any remedy?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Three kinds of wheat rusts are known to occur in India. They are known as black, brown and yellow rusts.

(b) No precise estimates of the damage are available. The loss varies on an average from 6 to 8 per cent. annually and in an epidemic year, the yield is further reduced by 15 to 20 per cent. In 1947 the damage due to an epidemic of black rust in Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat and the neighbouring tracts was estimated at nearly two million tons, which was 1/5th of the total yield of wheat in un-divided India. A statement showing the estimate of losses in 1948-1951 in certain States is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 35.]

(c) A number of varieties resistant individually to the three rusts have been evolved at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi. These varieties are now under trial in different States. Efforts are now being directed to evolve varieties capable of combined resistance against all these rusts.

(d) There is no other country where all these rusts are of economic importance. The only remedy is the evolution and cultivation of resistant varieties.

Shri Barman: May I know the time when each of these rust resistant varieties had been evolved at the I.A.R.I.?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is a continuing process. The research has been going on for a number of years. I can give a very detailed answer, but it will take a lot of time.

Shri Barman: For how long have these rust resistant varieties evolved at the I.A.R.I. been in use at the experimental stations in the different States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As soon as these varieties are evolved, they are tried in various places and tested as to whether they are capable of resisting the rusts. Then they are multiplied, and the seeds are distributed all over the States.

Shri Barman: How many of these species have passed the trial stage and are actually being applied in the fields by the agriculturists?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I cannot give a specific number. There is a fairly large number of varieties.

Shri Barman: Until these rust resistant varieties reach the final stage, what other interim methods are being adopted by Government to save this country from this enormous loss?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid the only remedy is to evolve better varieties, and that process is going on. There is no other remedy by which rust can be controlled.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know the number of experts who are carrying on research, and the cost involved on them in these research institutes?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Research is carried on not only by the Central Government, but also by the State Governments.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: I want to know only about the Central Government.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: He would have to give notice.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Is it a fact that the cultivation of wheat was banned in the Nigiris as part of the campaign against the wheat rust?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not aware of this. Circumstances may arise when we may have to do it in order to save the crop in the rest of India.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Will Government consider the question of compensating these ryots?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the details of the case here.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it a fact that some crosses forwarded by Madhya Bharat to the Central Government regarding stem rust have passed the experimental stage?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not aware.

FOOD SCARCITY IN MAHARASHTRA

*242. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of area affected by the famine in Maharashtra, and the names of districts, tehsils or talukas where acute conditions of famine prevailed;

(b) the extent of damage;

(c) the principal causes of famine; and

(d) the extent of help rendered by the Central Government?