

sugar they could have got it at controlled prices. But, as I said, before the allotment was released, it was cancelled.

Shri Gidwani: Was the officer prosecuted in any appropriate court for making such a statement?

Shri Kidwai: As I said, we entrusted the case to the Home Department for investigation by the Special Police.

INDO-U.S. AGREEMENT FOR IMPORT OF STEEL

***1668. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether India entered into an agreement with the U.S.A. in December, 1952 for the supply of 55,000 tons of steel to India during the year ending June 30, 1953?

(b) What are the terms of this agreement?

(c) How will the proceeds from the sale of this steel be utilised and for what purposes?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Government of India have entered into an Agreement with the U.S. Government for import of 1,10,000 tons of steel for agricultural purposes under the Technical Co-operation Programme.

(b) Copies of the relevant agreements are placed on the Table. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 29.]

(c) The sale proceeds of this steel will be utilised for the prosecution of further projects of economic development of India mutually agreeable to the two Governments as provided for in the Project Agreement. It has been agreed that the bulk of this steel will be sold to farmers and village artisans for the manufacture of implements, cart tyres and the like. The rest will be available to manufacturers of farm machinery.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what is the total dollar value of these imports?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The agreement does not mention the dollar value, but it mentions the quantity. The agreement also mentions the total estimated cost of the project as \$8,385,000 and the rupee contribution would be 12 lakhs.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know whether the steel imported from U.S.A. is anyway cheaper than the scrap steel that we send outside?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It was a free gift the

sale proceeds of which would be utilised for development purposes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the agency through which this steel will be sold to the agriculturists?

Shri Kidwai: It is done by the Industries Ministry.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it going to be sold to the agriculturists through the Agricultural Officers as it was being done previously, or is there any special agency through which it will be done?

Shri Kidwai: This steel is allotted for the use of the agriculturists for the manufacture of implements and the allotment is made through the State Governments.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know what is the amount so far imported?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether it is distributed through co-operative societies?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is actually mentioned in the agreement as to how it should be distributed, either through the State Governments or through co-operative societies.

Shri Kidwai: It depends on the State Governments.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that during post-war years whatever iron was allotted to the agriculturists was not made available to them through the agencies which were entrusted with that task, may I know whether the same agencies will be given that work now?

Shri Kidwai: As I said, the distribution is left to the State Governments and we cannot supersede the State Governments. The agriculturists have got their representatives in the State Legislatures to press their complaints, if any.

RETURN TICKETS

***1669. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cheap Return Tickets are issued from Bombay to some summer stations nearby;

(b) since when this new system has been introduced; and

(c) whether it is proposed to give similar facilities with regard to other summer stations also?