

after question for this purpose: the grant is applied for or recommended by the State Government, and some districts are chosen. On what criterion do you choose these districts as against some other districts? If the hon. Minister is able to answer this.....

Shri Kidwai: It is the State Government that chooses the area and we accept their scheme wherever we think it fit.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They also fix priority?

Shri Kidwai: According to their estimation.

Shri T. N. Singh: In answer to this question, it was just stated that the State Government had claimed for this area tube-wells also. So, the choice of the State Government was in favour of this area.

Shri Kidwai: I take it the hon. Member was not correct in hearing what has been said.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: The Minister did say that for these districts the sums were not sanctioned, which would mean that application was made by the State Government but it was not sanctioned.

Shri Kidwai: It did not mean that.

Lala Achint Ram rose,—

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know, in view of the discussion that has taken place, if the Government of India will extend any particular help to these scarcity areas now?

Shri Kidwai: Let the request from the State Government come, and we will consider it in our next programme.

लाला अचिंत राम : क्या जिला हिसार भी इस लिस्ट में शामिल है ?

श्री एम० बी० कृष्णप्पा : कौन कौन से डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स इस में हैं वह मैं न पढ़ा हूँ।

Col. Zaidi: Will the sinking of tube-wells be a success in Kangra District?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is for the experts to say.

CONTROL ON FOODGRAINS

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

(a) the extent and nature of the relaxations made in the matter of control on foodgrains after 1st January, 1953 in the various States;

(b) the nature and extent of the existing control on foodgrains in various States;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have advised State Governments to remove control on wheat;

(d) if so, which State Governments have followed this advice; and

(e) the policy of Government regarding relaxation of the present control on rice?

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

(a) and (b). Two statements, one showing relaxations allowed in control of foodgrains since 1st January, 1953, and the other the nature and extent of the existing controls in various States, are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 7.]

(c) Yes, except in the case of Delhi.

(d) Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Bhopal, Ajmer, Assam, Vindhya Pradesh, Madras and West Bengal.

(e) The question of any further relaxation in the existing controls on rice will be considered after an estimate is made of the conditions of the rice crop of 1953-54.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that now India is self-sufficient in the matter of rice, and if so, where is the difficulty in removing the statutory control and opening fair price shops wherever necessary?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): India is self-sufficient to the extent that whatever

they were distributing to the different States they have been able to distribute from their own resources, but self-sufficiency has not gone to the extent that if the movement and all the other restrictions are removed, all the people will get the rice that is required.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether Government have any intention of advising the Bombay State Government, to relax control on foodgrains, in towns having a population of less than one lakh?

Shri Kidwai: The Bombay Government had already started some relaxation last year, and they would have gone further, but for the failure of rains in Maharashtra. This year, they will relieve the situation; and what-ever is possible will be done.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there was any increase in the prices of foodgrains, after the removal of controls, in these various States, where the controls have been removed?

Shri Kidwai: In some areas, there was increase; in most of the areas there was decrease.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know how many areas have gone under modified rationing recently in West Bengal, and the reason therefor?

Shri Kidwai: I have no information, but I know that they demanded some wheat from us, for modified rationing in some areas.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: My question was this. I wanted to know how many new areas have come under modified rationing instead of decontrol, and the reasons therefor.

Shri Kidwai: I do not know exactly where they have reintroduced modified rationing.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether, in view of the fact that controls are being relaxed progressively, the Government will think of procuring foodgrains in the next harvest season.

Shri Kidwai: We will know exactly what will be the position after we have some idea of the next crops.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the position with regard to rice in Madras State? Have the prices increased or decreased after decontrol?

Shri Kidwai: Well, it depends on how they are compared. If you compare them with the rationing prices, then they have increased. But if you compare them with the prices in areas where there was no rationing, then, they have decreased.

Shri Achuthan: Is it not a fact that in Travancore-Cochin, after relaxation of controls, the prices of paddy have gone up to two or three times more than the price during the black-market period?

Shri Kidwai: In Travancore-Cochin, there has hardly been any relaxation. In one area, this year, the rains had failed, and there the Government had for the first time to extend rationing as the prices in that area were high.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: In what areas have the prices actually risen, after removal of control?

Shri Kidwai: In some areas of Madras State.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether in the surplus areas of the Circar districts, the prices of paddy have gone up, because of the procurement done by the Government of Madras.

Shri Kidwai: The hon. Member wants procurement, and when procurement is made, the open market prices will naturally go up. If there is some large scale procurement by the Government at a low price, then the prices of the balance of paddy will go up.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BURMA

*80. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Burma have sent Trade Delegation to India for