

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

entering into a long term Trade Agreement with this country?

(b) Have the Government of India succeeded in getting Burmese rice on barter system?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) More rice was not wanted by India now but for the future the Burmese Government would supply rice to the Government of India according to their needs.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know whether any quantity has been fixed for the rice concerned, under the barter arrangement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): There has been no barter arrangement.

Shri T. N. Singh: It was first stated in the papers that there was an agreement between Burma and India and subsequently reports appeared that there was no such agreement, and that rice will not at all be supplied by Burma now. What is the truth, in the face of these varying and conflicting reports?

Shri Kidwai: There has been no barter agreement. Before we could enter into any barter agreement, we had already purchased 1,50,000 tons. The Burma Government were agreeable to have this barter arrangement for our future purchases, but as we had no intention of purchasing any more rice this year, whatever the Burma Government required, had been supplied without any barter. So far as future supplies are concerned, the Burma Government have assured us that they will keep a reserve of 5 lakhs of tons, and they will supply us whatever quantity we require at the time we need it. The prices may be negotiated in regard to that rice, at that time.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that the things offered in barter by India to Burma were rather highly priced?

Shri Kidwai: That is not correct.

Shri Heda: May we know the best price at which Burma offered rice to us, last time?

Shri Kidwai: I said that the Burma Government's final price was £60 per ton, in dealings from Government to Government. We had purchased, as I said earlier, 1,50,000 tons before the Burmese delegation came here. The Burmese delegation was prepared to enter into a barter arrangement, for our future requirements. But as we had no intention of importing any more rice this year, we did not enter into any barter agreement.

Shri Heda: Did they not come down from £60 to £50 per ton?

Shri Kidwai: It was priced at £50 per ton; it was offered to us at the same price by China also, who wanted to supply us 50,000 tons. As we did not require the rice immediately, we did not negotiate any lowering down of the prices.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any private firms in Madras State have come forward to supply rice from Burma and China, and if so, how does the price offered by these private firms compare with that supplied by the Burma Government?

Shri Kidwai: This was repeated again and again, and I have agreed that whoever has offered me to supply rice at a lower price could do so. But they have not been able to get from Burma or China any rice at a lower price. As a matter of fact, the price from Government to Government is always lower in Burma, than that through trade channels.

SINGLE CHANNEL CARRIER TELEPHONE SYSTEM

*81. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether in the field of communication engineering progress has gone further with the designing and developing of "single channel carrier telephone system"?

(b) Has the equipment been designed to utilize indigenous materials in the