

hospital in Madras, which is the second oldest in the world and the best in India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action. What is the question? Hon. Members must elicit an answer.

Dr. Rama Rao: I will put it this way. Have Government been requested for any financial aid for the ophthalmic hospital at Madras?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: No, Sir.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether any survey has been made of the ailment of eye in India and, if so, what steps have been taken so far for its treatment?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): A great deal has been done in all the States in the matter of treatment of eye cases, and I could give the hon. Member a long list of the hospitals that already exist for ophthalmology all over India.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What is the nature of assistance being given by the Centre to the cause of ophthalmology, and what are the sums of money distributed to the various hospitals?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The hon. Member ought to know that no sums are given to States; the States from their own budgets and draw up their own projects.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM BURMA

*401. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:**
(a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how much rice will be imported from Burma during the year 1953?

(b) What terms and conditions have been settled for import of rice from Burma?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):
(a) We have so far imported 1,50,000 tons of rice from Burma during 1953 and no further import of rice from that country during the rest of the year is contemplated for the present.

(b) That the Government of India would indicate their future requirements of rice to the Government of Burma and purchases would then be negotiated accordingly.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know the ceiling price of the rice per maund which has been imported from Burma, in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It was purchased at £ 65 per ton. It is still in storage and has not been sold.

Shri Altekar: May I know the extent of shortage of rice during the year?

Shri Kidwai: I have said that we have imported only 1,50,000 tons, and we don't intend getting more. The procurement has been well, it has been 11 lakh tons.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: What is the reason for insisting people in Calcutta to take a higher priced rice together with a lower priced rice?

Shri Kidwai: There are three or four qualities that have been sold at different prices. I do not know who insists people to purchase the higher priced rice and not the lower priced rice.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: it is enforced in Calcutta in the ration shops.

Shri Kidwai: The prices of the rice have been fixed according to the quality. There are three qualities, coarse, medium and fine. And then there is the other shop where people can go and purchase something extra, over and above the ration and the price is the economic price, that is the purchase price.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether a barter system has been followed in importing the rice and, if so, may I know what is the commodity exported?

Shri Kidwai: There is no barter system because this rice was purchased before the Mission came here. And at that time we found that we did not require more rice. But the Burma Government have kindly agreed to

reserve for us 5 lakh tons which we can get whenever we require.

Shri G. S. Bharati: May I know whether we are self-sufficient in food-grains?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, we are already reaching self-sufficiency in rice.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know at what rate imported rice is going to be sold in India—whether it is according to the controlled rate or on the basis of the imported rate?

Shri Kidwai: As I have already said, we have not yet had the necessity of issuing that rice in the market. Therefore, no price has been fixed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the hon. Minister's statement may I know whether the quantum of rice has been revised?

Shri Kidwai: We have raised the quantum of rice in every State. In Calcutta itself the quantum has been raised from 4½ ounces to 6 ounces and in some States where it was only 2 ounces it has been raised to 4 ounces. Therefore, throughout the country the rice portion of the ration has been increased in the last twelve months.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know in view of the statement of the hon. Minister that 5½ lakh tons have been reserved for India and in view of the hon. Deputy Minister's statement that this year they would not get down any more rice, why only 150,000 tons have been imported? Is it because we are self-sufficient or we expect to import from other countries?

Shri Kidwai: 11 lakhs tons have been procured this year. With this extra procurement we have been able to raise the portion of rice rationing everywhere in the country. Where rice movement is free and there is free market, people who were taking wheat are not taking wheat. They are content with rice.

Shri K. C. Sodha: What profit or loss is expected to be made?

Shri Kidwai: I think hon. Member should realise that rice is imported at Rs. 30/- a maund. There cannot be any profit.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING (DIPLOMA COURSE)

*404. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Diploma Course in Public Health Nursing has been opened at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta from 1st June, 1953, to train nurses; and

(b) whether Government propose to open similar courses in other States of India?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no proposal at present to open similar courses in other States.

Shri Gidwani: May I know what are the minimum qualifications necessary for obtaining the diploma?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): The candidate should have necessary earlier training in nursing and possess the Senior Nursing Certificate from the Nursing Council.

Shri Gidwani: What will be the salary paid to the trainees after passing the diploma course?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The course has only just started.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The salaries will depend upon the States. These courses are open to students from all over India and from countries belonging to the South-East Asia Zone.

Shri Punnoose: May I know how many nurses are trained in this institute?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: That depends upon the demand from the States. I believe we are making arrangements to receive about 100 in the first instance.