

and Telegraphs employees only or is it open for all Government servants?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, Sir, I cannot be expected to remember all the details. I require notice.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to give educational facilities to the sons of Class IV employees?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Medical facilities and not education facilities!

लाला अचिन्त राम : क्या टो० बी० बेड्स के अलावा और बेड्स का भी आपने अफसरों के लिए कुछ अस्पतालों में इन्तजाम किया है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : जहाँ तक मुझे पता है और बेड्स का इन्तजाम तो कोई बात नहीं है ।

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the proposal to construct 120 beds for Posts and Telegraphs employees in the existing hospitals in India has materialised?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I said, I have not got the details here but we have got a number of beds reserved in a number of sanatoriums in different parts of the country.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know when we may expect a decision on the question of extension of these facilities to Class IV employees?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Sir, the question of giving medical facilities to Class IV servants of the Government of India was taken up by the Cabinet and sanctioned by them but the scheme was held up owing to the fact that the Delhi State came into existence and there was some point of disagreement between the Central Government and the Delhi State Government. Now the question is again under the consideration of the Union Public Service Commission which has advertised for the

doctors to look after the people and the matter will shortly be finalised.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid, Sir, I will have to supplement the answer given by my colleague, which concerns the employees in Delhi only. What I am concerned with is about all the Class IV employees throughout the country. I have taken up that question. Of course, the question of Class IV employees in other departments is more or less similar. The question of providing medical facilities to Class IV employees whether in Delhi or in other stations is under consideration of the Government.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE

*783. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Wheat Conference, held recently in Washington, allotted any quota of wheat to India; and

(b) if so, what quantity and for what period?

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

(a) The International Wheat Conference recently held in Washington considered the revision and renewal of the International Wheat Agreement of 1949 as that agreement was to expire on the 31st July, 1953. Under the revised and renewed agreement of 1953, India has a quota.

(b) The revised and renewed agreement is for a period of 3 years commencing from 1st August, 1953. The annual quota for India under this agreement is one million metric tons.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether India will import the total quantity of wheat allotted to it under the International Wheat Agreement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Let us hope so.

Shri Dabhi: At what price?

Shri Kidwai: If the open market price is higher than 2 Dollars and

5 cents we will get it at this price but if the market price is lower than the maximum price then we will get it at the open market price.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: With reference to the recent statement made by the hon. Minister that India will not import more than 1,000,000 tons of wheat next year, may I know, Sir, whether the Government of India will keep its negotiation with Russia which is, I think, about importing wheat?

Shri Kidwai: If I get cheaper wheat from Russia, why should we mind it?

Shri Rajabhoj: May I know, Sir, what is the total stock of wheat available in India?

Shri Kidwai: I think the hon. Member knows as much as I know.

Shri Achuthan: May I know the countries from which we are to purchase wheat and will the price of the wheat be uniform?

Shri Kidwai: So long as the market price is higher than the Agreement price, we will get it from exporting countries under the Wheat Agreement at 2.05 dollars but if the price in the open market is lower than the maximum price then we will purchase at the prevailing price in the market.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it obligatory even when the Government purchases from Russia, to purchase at least 1,000,000 tons annually from the U.S.A.

Shri Kidwai: It is not only from the U.S.A. that we will purchase 1,000,000 tons of wheat. We will purchase from all the exporting countries. So long as the price does not go below the minimum price there can be no obligation because it is the open market price and anybody can purchase it but if the price goes below the minimum price then, of course, they will insist on our purchasing it.

Shri C. D. Pande: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister made a statement in Bombay that there is enough wheat stock in the country

and he does not know what to do with that stock what is the necessity of importing further wheat now?

Shri Kidwai: Because the stock that we have today will not last till 1954 and 1955; it cannot be maintained and we will require some wheat.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, the difference between the prices in U.S.A. and the prices in U.S.S.R.

Shri Kidwai: There is no price in U.S.S.R. The hon. Member has recently toured Russia and she should know better than I do.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: What is the difference calculating on the barter system with U.S.S.R.

Shri Kidwai: That depends upon our completing the negotiations. Then we will know what price we will have to pay.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the prices fixed at this Conference are much higher than what were fixed in the previous Conferences and was it a reason that some of the countries were not willing to enter into this agreement.

Shri Kidwai: I think the hon. Member perhaps does not know the situation. If the price comes below the maximum it does not affect us because we get it at the market price.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the international wheat prices, particularly in the Chicago market have come down considerably and whether he can inform us of any possibility of getting wheat from other countries which are in the International Wheat Agreement at a cheaper rate?

Shri Kidwai: As I said, the wheat prices in the Chicago market have come down and we welcome it. We will purchase wheat at that price in the open market.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know if the Government is contemplating to

reduce the price of wheat with immediate effect? If so, by what amount?

Shri Kidwai: I hope the hon. Member knows that in the current year we have twice over reduced the price. We first brought it down from Rs. 18-8 to Rs. 17-8 and then from Rs. 17-8 to Rs. 16 per maund. This is below the price at which the wheat is being supplied in the controlled markets of Bombay and Calcutta.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: May I know within what time Government contemplate to take away the control from wheat?

Shri Kidwai: When I was recently in Bombay I came to know that wheat is being sold at Rs. 20 to the consumer while we can sell it at Rs. 16-8 to the retailer, who will sell it to the consumer at Rs. 17 or, at the most, at Rs. 17-8. Therefore this is under contemplation.

Seth Govind Das rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have allowed sixteen questions on this. What can I do? Hon. Members who want to put questions must come in early—intervene in the question early; I am not referring to his coming late.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR PLANTATION WORKERS

*784. **Ch. Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Japanese Expert has been invited for vocational training for plantation workers?

(b) Has he come and started his work?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 20.]

Ch. Raghbir Singh: May I know the reasons why the Expert was not able to set up a practical demonstration centre?

Shri Abid Ali: He was more a theoretical man and did not know how to demonstrate the making of the articles which we wanted to be made and to be used for cottage industries. Therefore he was sent away earlier.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. Minister recently toured plantation areas. For how many days in a week on an average are these labourers employed in these plantation areas?

Shri Abid Ali: Now they are employed for six days in a week in most of the plantation gardens; in some places, of course, for four and five days.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Then where is the necessity for this vocational training if they are employed for six days in a week?

Shri Abid Ali: At that time the situation was not so good. The workers are also to be given some work during spare time.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Who invited this academic expert and who paid for his visit?

Shri Abid Ali: It was under the Agreement. This matter has been discussed here several times on previous occasions. We spent only about Rs. 3,400.

Shri Nanadas: May I know what kind of vocational training this expert suggested?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has gone away.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether under this arrangement with the International Labour Office, in pursuance of which the Japanese expert visited this country, the visit of any other expert is contemplated?

Shri Abid Ali: At least not at present, Sir.

Shri N. Somana: May I know whether he has made any proposals as regards supplementary labour?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, Sir, he has.