

RICE IMPORT

*43. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state which will be the States to which rice would have to be supplied from the Centre?

(b) Is there any proposal at present to import rice?

(c) If so, what quantity and through which agencies?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) During the next few months rice will have to be supplied mainly to West Bengal, Travancore-Cochin, Bombay and Kashmir.

(b) and (c). Under the relaxations recently allowed a small quantity of rice may be imported by private trade during 1954 for distribution in the country and Government may consider importing some quantity for building up of reserves.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether the requirements of the various States for the next year have been ascertained and if so whether any proposals have been received by the Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have not yet ascertained the final estimates; but we have got a rough figure. The total requirements of the deficit States will come to about 11 lakh tons of rice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether there is any idea of stopping State procurement of rice? Has it come to the notice of the Government that in view of reports to that effect, the growers are entering into forward markets for very low prices?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This forward market has been in existence from time immemorial, because of the poverty of agriculturists in the villages, when they are in need of money they even sell their standing crops. That means they enter into forward contracts. We are trying our best to see that the fair prices are given to the agriculturist. From Madras I had to give a warning to the merchants not

to enter into such agreements and exploit the poor agriculturists.

Shri A. M. Thomas: My question has not been answered. My question was whether there is any idea of stopping State procurement.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No. We are procuring.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if there is any possibility of removing restrictions on the inter-State movement of rice in the near future?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Restrictions on inter-State movements have been relaxed in some provinces, but the restrictions on inter-State movement will remain.

Shri Heda: May we know the names of the States which from deficit areas have become self-sufficient or surplus areas this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Hyderabad which was hitherto a deficit State has become self-sufficient. Similarly, Mysore, Saurashtra and Assam which were deficit States have become self-sufficient, and by the end of the present harvest season we hope some more States will become self-sufficient, or surplus.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

*44. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total acreage of land that has been put under the Japanese method of Paddy cultivation during the Kharif season in various States in India?

(b) What is the average yield per acre under such cultivation method?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) According to the information received from the State Governments an area of approximately 1,24,900 acres was put under the Japanese method of paddy cultivation during the Kharif season, 1953. Some important States like West Bengal have not yet reported. These figures also only include such

areas from where definite and detailed data are available and excludes areas where the method has been practised partially, e.g. by merely transplanting or using chemical fertilisers etc. Such area is estimated to be not less than 30 lakh acres.

(b) Small-scale experiments carried out in Bombay State during 1952 indicate that the average yield varies from 3,000 lbs. to 4,000 lbs. of paddy per acre depending on soil and climatic conditions. As the harvesting is still in progress it is yet too early to give figures of yield for the current year.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that the increase in yield is also due to the use of chemical fertilizers in these fields?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes; but if all the other items in the method are followed, the yield is far more than can be attributable only to the use of chemical fertilizers.

Shri Gidwani: Will it make a substantial difference if the ordinary manure is used?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir, it should make some difference.

Shri V. P. Nayar: From the details available with the hon. Minister can he tell us what is the additional cost per acre under the Japanese method of cultivation as compared to the Indian method?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is being calculated, and I propose to give detailed information about it, but there are farmers who are prepared to challenge the statement that the Japanese method is more costly than the ordinary method.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the extent of land that is under the Japanese method of paddy cultivation in Andhra State, and whether any of it has been damaged by the floods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no separate figures for Andhra.

WORKING JOURNALISTS

*45. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the demands made by the Working Journalists of India on Sunday, the 27th September, 1953 for being classified amongst the "workmen" as contemplated by the Industrial Disputes Act?

(b) If so, what immediate steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The question of inclusion of working journalists within the purview of the new Industrial Relations legislation which is intended to replace the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, is under consideration.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know why when the Ordinance No. 5 of 1953 was promulgated in October last the question was not taken up and this amendment was not effected? Is there any special reason for that?

Shri Abid Ali: This particular question is much larger than that, and therefore we are giving serious consideration to it, and, as I have stated, at the time of bringing the new Bill this item will be given due weight.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know the length of time that is expected to be taken in bringing this new amending Bill?

Shri Abid Ali: It is very difficult for me to give any definite date, but it may be early next year.

FLOOD DAMAGE

*48. **Shri Gopala Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the estimated damages done to crops so far in each State, by the floods of 1953?

(b) To what extent has the production of foodgrains suffered due to the ravages caused by the floods?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). The