

Shri K. D. Malaviya: On the suggestion of the Chief Minister of Madras, consideration of this scheme by the C.A. Board was postponed.

Mr. Speaker: Question No. 1074.

Next question.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Sir, there is my question—1074.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member did not stand when called upon. I am sorry. We will take it up after all the questions are finished.

GRAM STOCK IN PEPSU

***1075. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state what was the stock of gram with the Government of PEPSU when the Civil Supplies Department was disbanded?

(b) What was the value of these stocks?

(c) In how many places were these stocks lying?

(d) To whom has this work of Civil Supplies Department been entrusted?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Approximately 1,68,820 maunds.

(b) Approximately Rs. 18,57,020.

(c) These stocks were lying in the mandies in the various Districts.

(d) Mainly to the Deputy Commissioners.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the stock for which partial payment had been made by the Government when those stocks had been sealed?

Dr. Katju: I have no information about it.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that a good portion of those stocks for which partial payment had been made had been procured at one price, and were released and allowed to be sold to private traders at a much higher price?

Dr. Katju: Will the hon. Member give notice for such information? I really do not know.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has the Government received complaints that some stocks were released by the Adviser, to be sold by the traders at a much higher price to gain profits and part of which would be available to the Congress party for the next election?

Dr. Katju: None whatsoever. This information should never be repeated.

COMMODITY PRICES IN PEPSU

***1076. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of the commodities that were procured and brought to the markets in PEPSU were fixed by the Procurement Staff of the Civil Supplies Department;

(b) whether any agency has been discharging these duties since the abolition of this department in toto; and

(c) whether any complaints have been received from markets in PEPSU that the producers are being denied proper prices for want of any agency to look after their interests?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the agency that has been brought about to see that the rates are fixed?

Dr. Katju: The question was: whether any agency has been discharging these duties since the abolition of this department in toto. The answer to it is: an agency has been established.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the agency?

Dr. Katju: The question is: whether any complaints have been received from markets....

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the agency that has been established.

Dr. Katju: Procurement Inspectors.

CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, PEPSU

*1077. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) what were the functions assigned to the Civil Supplies Department in PEPSU before it was abolished by the Adviser;

(b) whether the field workers were given any training for the technical jobs they had to perform in discharging their duties; and

(c) whether the officers or employees entrusted with the same jobs have been given similar training since the abolition of the Department?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) The functions of the Civil Supplies Department of PEPSU were analogous to those of similar Departments in other States which are surplus in foodgrains. Briefly stated, that Department dealt with the procurement of foodgrains on a monopoly basis, issue of foodgrains locally and export of grains outside the State to deficit areas. That Department also exercised control on other commodities such as cement, salt, vegetable oil, drugs, bricks etc. and regulated their distribution among consumers.

(b) Yes.

(c) Some of these officers have undergone the necessary training.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the preservation of stocks and the sampling of them were also entrusted to the Civil Supplies Department and whether that is being done by the agency which is now entrusted with that task?

Dr. Katju: I imagine so.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any fumigation of the stocks which this State had when the Civil Supplies Department was abolished, has been carried on, and if so, when?

Dr. Katju: You mean 'fumigation'? I meant 'dhua'.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

RESERVATION OF POSTS IN MANIPUR STATE FOR TRIBAL PEOPLE

*1079. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Government of Manipur to reserve a percentage of Government posts for the tribal people of Manipur?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): It is not necessary to do so.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know, Sir, what percentage of the Government posts is reserved for these people?

Dr. Katju: The House may be interested to know this. The total area of about 8,000 sq. miles consists of hills where tribal people live. People from the plains do not care to go to the hills. Therefore, all the jobs in the hills are mainly held by the hill people and today, the percentage of hill men in all categories of service under the Manipur administration is 18.5—more than their population warrants. I am very anxious myself that as many hill people as can possibly be managed should be absorbed in the services. I shall be very happy if they get many more jobs provided they are properly educated.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether it is a fact that the present Government of Manipur is against any reservation of Government posts for the hill people?

Dr. Katju: There is no question of reservation of posts for hill people. In fact, they have got more posts than their number would warrant.

Mr. Speaker: His question is whether the Government of Manipur is against the idea of reservation?

Dr. Katju: I do not know, Sir. I represent the Manipur Government here.