

companies have raised, because their rates, as fixed by them and approved by the Government, are much higher and people to save their money go to these non-tariff companies who defraud them and do not pay. They have not paid in a single instance an accident insurance claim that was filed with them. Do Government propose to take any action to protect people from being defrauded in this way?

**Shri Alagesan:** As I said, Sir, the third party can go to court and establish their claim. Then certainly the companies have to pay; they cannot evade.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question. Mr. Heda.

**Shri Raghavachari:** I wanted to put a question on the previous question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have already gone to the next question.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

\*1168. **Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent speech of the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture in Madras regarding despatch of foodgrains from the surplus areas of Madras and Andhra to Travancore-Cochin State, foodgrains are proposed to be sent to the above State from the surplus areas;

(b) if so, what will be the quantity; and

(c) at what price?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (c). Yes, Travancore-Cochin are getting 15,000 tons of rice from Madras and 32,000 tons from Andhra on replacement basis. They are paying to the Madras and Andhra States the price of this rice at the wholesale issue rates of the two States, but will receive refund of the amounts paid when they return the rice in 1954.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that now rice is being sent from a shorter distance, whether the price will be reduced.

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** The question of price reduction in Travancore-Cochin does not arise because we are maintaining the price of rice supplied to Travancore-Cochin at Rs. 17 per maund issue price. So whether the rice is worth Rs. 24 per maund, or Rs. 16 per maund, we maintain the price of Rs. 17 per maund and meet the difference as subsidy. So the question of price does not arise in the case of Travancore-Cochin.

**Kumari Annie Mascarene:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that owing to the acute position of unemployment, the poor people are unable to buy their ration on account of the high price?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The offtake has not decreased in Travancore-Cochin, Sir. It is increasing and they want more rice.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** May I enquire whether the Central Government have got any idea with regard to the requirements of Travancore-Cochin for the next year and may I also enquire whether there is any idea of increasing the present ration from 6 oz. to 8 oz.?

**Shri Kidwai:** Every year, we used to supply Travancore-Cochin 3 lakh tons. This year we supplied more. Besides, the original ration quota of rice for Travancore-Cochin was 4½ oz., and it was raised last year to 6 oz. This year, besides these 6 oz. we have already agreed to supply 2 oz. more in the economic shops at the price at which the State Government is purchasing. I hope this will continue and it may be increased to 3 oz. next year.

RANGIYA-RANGAPARA LINE

\*1169. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state when the Rangiya-Rangapara line was opened?