

## BARTER DEAL WITH RUSSIA

\*287. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations between Russia and our Government for the supply of Russian wheat on barter system have been concluded; and

(b) if so, what has been the result these licences.

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**  
(a) No, please.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know the number of licences issued to private trade for importing rice from soft currency areas?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** That question should be addressed to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which issues these licences.

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** This is about Russia.

## PRIVATE TRADE IN FOOD GRAINS

\*288. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow import of self-raising flour, maize and barley on trade account from abroad; and

(b) if so, whether any conditions have been attached with respect to the import and sale of these food grains?

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

(b) Self-raising flour is allowed to be imported by actual users only whereas applications for the import of maize and barley are considered on an *ad-hoc* basis by the Chief Controller of Imports. Import licences for maize and barely are issued on the condition that they will not be sold in rationed areas. Their sale will

also be subject to local or other controls applicable to them in the State concerned.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know the quantity of these foodgrains which have been imported up to this time?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** We have no information, but I might inform the hon. Member that as the production of maize and barley in this country is now sufficient to meet the local requirements, we have requested the Commerce and Industry Ministry not to issue further licences.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो इंटर स्टेट कंट्रोल है उस को कब तक हटाया जावेगा ?

श्री किशवर्दी : अभी जल्दी कोई इरादा नहीं है।

**Shri Bansal:** May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture has been invited to a statement by the Russian Ambassador in our country that a negotiation with the Government of India was afoot, and that it will be soon concluded?

**Shri Kidwai:** That is about a trade agreement, under which we will be able to import whatever quantity of wheat, or rice, or anything they could supply us and they can take from here whatever they can.

## CONTROL ON RICE

\*289. **Shri Dabhi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to remove all controls on food grains except rice?

(b) To what extent will the control on rice be continued and for what reasons?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**  
(a) Government of India have decided

that wheat and coarse grains should now be completely decontrolled except that inter-state barriers should continue as before.

(b) The existing controls on rice will more or less continue during 1954 except that some changes may be made in the procurement arrangement to meet local conditions. The controls will have to continue till the rice position in the country improves further.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I take it that the control on foodgrains except rice will be done away with in all the cities including 'rationed' cities also?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** Yes, Sir. Rationed cities also.

**Shri Dabhi:** In view of the fact that the position regarding wheat and other foodgrains is very satisfactory, may I know the reasons for continuing the ban on inter-state movement of these foodgrains?

**Shri Kidwai:** Yes. Supposing we allow wheat to go from one State to the other freely, then Bombay will import wheat requirements from the Punjab, and the prices in Punjab will go up. Then there will be transport difficulties also. This will be increased if Punjab starts sending wheat to Bombay, Bombay starts sending grains to Madras and Madras starts sending them to Calcutta.

**Shri Dabhi:** In view of the fact that even when the country used to import 15 to 20, lakh tons from Burma there was no control on rice, how is it that it is continued even when we can do without importing rice?

**Shri Kidwai:** We are not talking just now of rice, but of wheat. Wheat prices in Punjab are lower than the imported wheat prices at port towns. Therefore, people will like to have Punjab wheat or U.P. wheat in Bombay and other places. Then the prices in both Punjab and Bombay will go up. Therefore, so long as the scarcity lasts, some such control will have to be maintained.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** As Government propose to continue controls on rice, may I know whether they propose to enter the market and buy rice?

**Shri Kidwai:** State Governments will continue to purchase in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh and also for local consumption in Bombay and Madras. But in Calcutta we are not procuring; whenever we come to know that the producer is not getting a fair price or an economic price, we will start purchasing at a higher price so that the producer may be saved.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** May I know, Sir, whether the control on rice pertains only to the poorest variety of rice as is available in Delhi and Bengal?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Controls have reduced rice to the poorest variety. When we gave one price, agriculturists have taken to grow only the common variety and they have left off superior varieties. But we want to encourage growing of superior varieties also.

**Shri G. H. Deshpande:** Will Government consider a proposal to form zones wherein the deficit and surplus States can be brought together, for instance, Bombay, Hyderabad and Madhya Pradesh?

**Shri Kidwai:** Something like this has been done about coarse grains, although the inter-State movement has been controlled. But Bombay has been linked with Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab and others. It is only the Bombay Government that can move the coarse grain from this area. Similarly Madras's requirements are low. Therefore, they have been connected with Hyderabad.

#### MAJRI COLLIERIES

\*291, **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the amount of compensation paid to the families or dependents of the 11 workers who died in the Majri