

year for the Government of India at the instance of the Punjab Government by the rice traders of the Punjab;

(b) whether a portion of the rice purchased was not taken delivery of by the Central Government; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the quantity of rice lying with the traders?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). The correct position is that the Punjab Government, under their Monopoly Procurement Scheme, have during the present Kharif year procured by purchase through their agents 1,14,000 tons of rice, out of which coarse varieties are about 40,000 tons. This procurement was meant both for export to other States and for internal consumption. After deducting 80,000 tons which has been exported to other States and some other quantities retained by the Punjab Government, there is only a quantity of 7,600 tons which the Central Government has agreed to take over for its Central Reserve. This is the quantity with the Trade in Punjab, which the Centre has still to take over, but the Government of India has already made payment for 5,200 tons and arrangements are being made for payment of the balance of 2,400 tons.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Was there any dispute about the rate of commission?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is it a fact that there was a dispute about taking over all the stocks or part of the stocks?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not aware of any dispute about this.

GROW MORE FOOD SCHEMES

*376. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give assistance to the State

of Jammu and Kashmir for "Grow More Food" Schemes; and

(b) what amount is proposed to be given annually and from when?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) The amount allocated for the 2 years 1954-55 and 1955-56 is Rs. 20 lakhs but sanctions are issued only on the basis of specific schemes found acceptable under the G.M.F. Rules.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Is the State self-sufficient in food?

Shri Karmarkar: So far as I could say off-hand, it is not self-sufficient; but I should like to have notice.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: What were the data which led the Government to conclude that only this amount is necessary as aid?

Shri Karmarkar: The State put up its proposals. We considered the proposals and as a result of our consideration, this amount of Rs. 20 lakhs has been thought as a reasonable aid to be given to that State.

PARCELS MISSING FROM RAILWAYS

*377. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of missing parcels from the various Railways is on the increase;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases reported to the railway authorities during February to July 1954; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such cases?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) There is a slight increase on the Eastern and Western Railways but a decrease on the other four Railways.

(b) Figures for the period mentioned are not readily available, but the