

(Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Approximately Rs. 12,11,400 on temporary repairs done to bridges and Rs. 11,77,300 on temporary repairs to the lines on Assam Link and approximately Rs. 73,00,000 expected to be spent on permanent restoration works.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*652. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the floor prices of wheat under the International Wheat Agreement to which India is a party are much above the present world prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that our purchases of wheat from abroad under the Agreement have been made from Australia;

(c) whether it is a fact that freight rates of wheat from Australia have recently gone up by about 40 per cent.; and

(d) whether the question of the unfair tactics of exporters which works to the disadvantage of India have been taken up by our representatives with the International Wheat Council and with its Executive Committee?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Mostly from Australia, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the American Government have recently offered us their surplus wheat at a much lower price than the floor price fixed by the International Wheat Agreement, and whether they have also offered us freight concessions?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Is it from America?

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Yes.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The question is about Australia.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: I want to know whether the Government are aware that certain offers have been made from the United States of America for surplus foreign produce, including wheat, at a price much lower than the floor rates of the International Wheat Agreement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): That is not a fact.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether in any country, other than the countries which are parties to the International Wheat Agreement, the floor price of wheat is much less than that obtaining in India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The international wheat market prices are much higher than the floor price fixed in the Agreement. The open market wheat prices are nowhere in the world below the floor price fixed in the Agreement.

Sardar Hukam Singh: The Finance Minister gave the statement the other day that he had been negotiating for the receipt of surplus foreign products from America and that included wheat as well.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We will be getting more wheat in the Aid Programme.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Is it true that in countries like the United States, the wheat crop of the last two years is being preserved unsold?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is true that the surpluses have increased in the world market, but still the prices have not gone down to our knowledge as much as we expected, and that is one of the reasons why we asked the International Wheat Council to revise their agreement. We feel that taking into account the availability of surpluses in the country, the prices should be a little less than what are

now prevailing. That is one of the reasons why we are pressing for the revision of the International Wheat Agreement.

WORKING OF POST OFFICES ON SUNDAYS

*653. **Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the criteria on which the decision is taken to keep at least one Post Office open on Sundays in cities and towns to facilitate the general public to transact their business on that day?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The criteria for opening what are called Night post offices which are also kept open on Sundays were:—

- (i) It should be a Night Airmail Service Centre;
- (ii) It should be a place of commercial or industrial importance.
- (iii) Population of 5 lakhs.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if a town like Cuttack does not satisfy the requirements?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am afraid it does not.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether this population of five lakhs—if I remember aright, the hon. Minister said it was five lakhs—is too high, and whether they will consider reducing that limit, so that more people can have these facilities?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid this is a suggestion for action.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the employees who are employed on Saturdays are getting extra allowances?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I presume that according to the rules they will be getting allowance.

नवी रेलवे लाइनें

*६५४. **श्री भक्त दर्शन :** क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश में कुछ नई रेलवे लाइनें बनाने की कुछ सिफारिशों की हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका व्यौरा क्या है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir. U.P. Government's recommendations in connection with the construction of new railway lines during the Second Five Year Plan Period are yet to be received.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने जो सम्मति दी है वह इस सम्बन्ध में अन्तिम है या इस बारे में जब और सुझाव आयेंगे तो उन पर भी विचार किया जायेगा ?

Mr. Speaker: They have not submitted any schemes; there is no scheme submitted by the U.P. Government.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि द्वितीय पंच वर्षीय योजना तैयार करने समय क्या राज्य सरकारों की तथा और संस्थाओं की राय मांगी जायेगी कि कौन सी रेलवे लाइनें द्वितीय पंच वर्षीय योजना में बनाई जायें ?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री) : जी हां, मांगी जायेगी नहीं, मांगी गई है, लेकिन अभी तक वह आई नहीं है ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कोई सीमा निर्धारित की गई है कि राज्य सरकारें कब तक अपनी सम्मति भेज सकेंगी और कब तक उन पर विचार किया जावेगा ?