

Shri U. C. Patnaik: May I know whether the cases of nepotism and corruption referred to by Mr. Gorwala have been examined either by the Planning Commission or by the Home Department?

Dr. Katju: I have just said that the whole question about prevention of corruption—I am not talking of nepotism, that is a different matter—has been examined in great detail by a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand. That report is being examined actively by the Home Department.

As for nepotism, I may be permitted to say that while you would prevent me from being guilty of nepotism, may I venture to add as a fellow Member that all Members of Parliament would also not be guilty of nepotism.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I want to know if the cases referred to have been examined in fact.

Mr. Speaker: Of nepotism or corruption?

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Both.

Dr. Katju: I do not know whether there are any specific cases.

FOOD REQUIREMENTS

*353. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the estimated requirements of food-grains for the year 1952-53; and

(b) what will be the extent of deficit?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The Basic Plan for procurement and distribution of foodgrains is worked for the calendar year and not the financial year. The present Plan—it is revised from time to time to take into account changing conditions—provides for Government distribution of 7.65 million tons out of which 3.65 million tons that are expected to be procured internally, leaving a deficit of 4 million tons to be met by imports.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know what will be the total stock in balance at the various Government godowns at the commencement of 1952-53?

Shri Kidwai: I can supply to the hon. Member or to all hon. Members, our stock position that they require on a particular date but the figures are not with me.

Mr. Speaker: He wants notice. He has not got the figure.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know whether for 1952-53 any import programme of food grains has been fixed and what will be the extent of the grains imported from outside the country?

Shri Kidwai: That information is supplied to the House on every question day, including today.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether import of foodgrains to India by private companies will be allowed and what will be its repercussions on the prices? We have read in the newspapers that the hon. Minister is providing for foodgrains to make up deficit.

Shri Kidwai: I have stated in several places that if I find that private importers can get better terms or can secure better storage at less cost, I would consider this question.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Minister is aware that in Madras certain merchants came forward saying that they would be able to import rice more favourably and why no facilities were provided for them?

Shri Kidwai: There were certain merchants in Madras who said that they can procure rice from Burma at cheaper terms, but they were not aware of the conditions in Burma. Our last agreement provided that out of the imports from Burma 250 tons will be imported by Government and 130 tons will be available to private importers and we have seen the result. While we have got at cheaper rates the exporter from Burma to India had to pay a higher rate and consequently our prices went up.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how the Minister came to form such an opinion when the claimants from Madras had knowing the conditions in Burma offered to supply rice cheaper?

Shri Kidwai: There was some reference in the Madras Assembly and I had also heard that some Madras merchants were prepared to import rice and to get an allotment of quota. The Government of India at once wrote to Madras Government that if any one is prepared to import, he should be given facilities, provided the prices were reasonable.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.