

CALCUTTA PORT (MECHANICAL INSTALLATIONS)

59. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mechanical installations are being provided in the port of Calcutta for handling coal and heavy mineral ores; and

(b) if so,

(i) the number of such installations;

(ii) the cost of each installation; and

(iii) when these installations are expected to be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport: (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes, for handling coal.

(b) (i) One coal loading plant at No. 18 Coal Berth.

(ii) Estimated cost Rs. 35 lakhs.

(iii) The mechanical coal loading plant which is now under erection is expected to be ready for operation by September 1952 with the help of temporary loaders. The permanent loaders which will take about six months to erect are expected to be delivered in March 1953.

SUGAR

60. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total rationed quantity of crystal sugar sanctioned for each State for consumption for the years 1950 and 1951?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix II, annexure No. 35.)

CULTIVATION OF LAND BY MECHANICAL MEANS

61. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the acreage of cultivable land brought under cultivation by State Governments during the last four years by mechanical means?

(b) What is the acreage brought under cultivation by cultivators?

(c) Has any of the areas remained fallow after it was once cultivated and if so, how much in respect of each State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Estimates of acreage reclaimed and cultivated by mechanical means are available in respect of the areas under the Grow More Food Campaign. Such acreage during 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 was 2.7, 9.0 and 8.1 lakh acres respectively. For July 1951 to March 1952 the acreage so cultivated was 4.2 lakh acres.

(b) Not available.

(c) Not available.

STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY RATIONING

62. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total population in India served under (i) statutory rationing; and (ii) informal system of rationing during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951?

(b) What was the total quantity of foodgrains supplied under each system during these years?

(c) What percentage does the population under each system of rationing bear to the total population of India?

(d) What proportion do the foodgrains supplied under each of these systems bear to the total produce in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The total population in India served under statutory rationing was about 41.1 million at the end of 1949, 45.7 million at the end of 1950 and 46.8 million at the end of 1951. The population served under informal rationing was 75.5 million at the end of 1949, 78.6 million at the end of 1950 and 75.2 million at the end of 1951.

(b) The total quantity of foodgrains issued under statutory rationing was about 3.2 million tons, 3.9 million tons and 3.8 million tons during 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively. Issues under informal rationing amounted to 3.1 million tons, 2.8 million tons and 2.9 million tons during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively.

(c) The total population under statutory rationing formed about 12.2, 12.6 and 12.9 per cent. of the total population of the country during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively. Population under informal rationing was about 20.8, 21.8 and 20.8 per cent.

of the total population of the country during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively.

(d) Foodgrains supplied under statutory rationing formed about 7.4, 8.4 and 9.0 per cent. of the total cereals production in India during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively. Issues under minimal rationing formed about 7.4, 8.0 and 7.0 per cent. of the total produce in India during 1949, 1950 and 1951 respectively.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK INQUIRY COMMITTEE

63. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (c) of starred question No. 1904 asked on the 9th March, 1951 regarding Extension of Savings Bank Facilities in all Post Offices and state what action has been taken or is being taken in the matter?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The recommendations of the Committee have been considered. Savings Bank facilities are being provided in all Post offices in rural areas as and when suitable persons are available for appointment as extra-departmental branch postmasters. Suitability of a candidate depends on his solvency and sound financial status.

SPURIOUS DRUGS

64. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sale of spurious drugs in India, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to root out the activities of spurious drug pedlars?

The Minister of Health (Itajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). Yes. The Central and State Governments are aware of the problem. The Drugs Act of 1940 is intended to prevent the manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. The State Governments are enforcing the Drugs Act. The question of amending the Drugs Act in order to provide for more severe punishment for such offences is under consideration.

SUPPLY OF WATER TO RAYALSEEMA BY SOUTHERN RAILWAY

65. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway Authorities have arranged to supply drinking water to the famine stricken and draught affected people in Rayalseema, and

(b) if so, on which stations water was made available to the people?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) At Giddalur, Markapur, Cum-bum, Razampet, Yerraguntla, Guntakal, Narasaraopet and also at Tirupattur and Katpadi stations.