

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b). Yes. The Central Government took over financial liability for certain provisional national highways in April 1947. A statement showing the lengths of these roads is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 2].

The "missing" links and bridges required on these roads are expected to be completed in seven to ten years.

Shri A. C. Guha: From the statement I find there is National Highway No. 2. Has there been any complaint that this road, while approaching Calcutta, is too narrow for 20 miles? Has the Bengal Government made any representation for widening this road?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have no information; but, I am prepared to look into the matter.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister stated that the scheme was formulated in 1947. Since then, has there been any modification of the scheme in view of the large concentration of refugees and in view of the Partition of West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The alignments of these roads are being surveyed and finalised in consultation with the State Governments.

Shri A. C. Guha: Has there been any modification of the original scheme as formulated in the Nagpur Conference?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not know.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Government has got any particular plan in the Five Year Plan for road development in West Bengal?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes; we have.

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the plan?

Mr. Speaker: He may refer to the plan.

Shri Nana Dass: Is there any proposal to nationalise road transport?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different question. This question does not relate to nationalisation of road transport.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether all the compensation cases regarding the acquisition of land for this road are over?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I should like to have notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what has been the contribution of the Government from the Central Road Fund to the West Bengal Government, and whether there has been any reduction in the contribution from the Central Government?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I should like to have notice.

SYSTEM OF PROCUREMENT OF FOOD-GRAINS BY LEVY

*663. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where the system of procurement of foodgrains by levy has been enforced;

(b) whether the working of this system has been discussed and examined on All India level; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to do so?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Procurement by means of levy either on the cultivators or on the traders is in force in Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, Kashmir, Madhya Bharat, Mysore, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Travancore-Cochin, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh and in Assam (in the thanas bordering Pakistan).

(b) The progress of procurement in every State is continuously watched by the Centre. The system of procurement prevalent in the various States was also examined in detail by a Committee set up by the Government of India in 1950.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the system of procurement by levy is uniform throughout all the States?

Shri Karmarkar: It varies from State to State.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the system of procurement by monopoly purchase is also in vogue in all these States?

Shri Karmarkar: In some of the States, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that the system of procurement by levy is being very badly used in some of the States, and the cultivators are put to great difficulties through the working of the system?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that rice-mills in the States have been appointed as agents to purchase rice and they supply rice to the Government?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes. I find in some States the rice mills purchase rice for the Government because it is convenient to do so. They gather rice from various cultivators and they give rice to the Government.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Government in those States also purchase rice in the open market?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid questions regarding details of administration and management of State Governments should properly be put in the local legislatures.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether Government of India is going to de-control foodgrains in all the States as in Madras?

Shri Karmarkar: That would require notice obviously.

Shri Pocker Saheb: May I know whether the Government has decided to de-control foodgrains so far as Madras State is concerned, and if so, whether in spite of that procurement by levy system continues in the surplus areas in that State?

Shri Karmarkar: That would also require notice.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is it the policy of the Government to enforce a uniform system of procurement throughout India?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir; that is not the policy. It will vary according to the local circumstances.

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

*664. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the rates of procurement prices fixed for different foodgrains in different States?

(b) Have these rates been revised or whether these were the same as the last year?

(c) What were the recommendations or suggestions in this regard made by different States?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 3.]

(b) In case of Rabi grains the procurement prices are the same as fixed

for last year except Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh who have of their own accord fixed lower prices. In case of *Kharif* grains, the procurement prices were revised in some of the States.

(c) Small increases in prices over that of previous year were suggested by some of the State Governments and where considered reasonable were accepted in full or at a reduced rate. Generally the prices were fixed on the levels obtaining in the previous year.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that some of the States suggested an increase in price and Government turned down the proposal?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the names of the States?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to find out.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the margin of difference between the procurement price and the issue price in those States?

Mr. Speaker: That is an oft-repeated question. It will vary from State to State.

Shri S. N. Das: A committee was appointed to enquire into the wide difference between the procurement price and issue price in West Bengal Government. May I know whether the Government has come to any decision?

Shri Karmarkar: Only about West Bengal?

Shri S. N. Das: Yes.

Shri Karmarkar: I have no information.

Dr P. S. Deshmukh:—Is it a fact that a slight increase in the procurement price has brought in much more grain in Madhya Pradesh than was anticipated?

Shri Karmarkar: In Madhya Pradesh we get grains very easily either at a higher price or a lower price.

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*665. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reduction has been made recently in the pooled prices of milo; and

(b) if so, what is the reduced price of milo?