

## IMPORT OF RICE FROM THAILAND

\*1834. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India has recently signed a contract with Thailand for the supply of rice?

(b) If so, what is the quantity of rice to be received?

(c) Have the shipping arrangements been made and by which time the delivery would be taken?

(d) What is the price of rice settled?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 1,60,000 metric tons.

(c) Shipping arrangements have already been made except for some 22 thousand tons.

The delivery is to be taken by the 15th September, 1952.

(d) It will not be in the public interest to disclose just at present the price of the rice.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether this import arrangement was made privately with Thailand or through World Food Organisation?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I suppose it was done between government to government, so far as I can answer my friend at present.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether Thailand helps us in giving shipping facilities?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have no idea about the matter.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether it is a fact that the price of the rice has changed during the last three years?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is likely to have changed, but I am not sure.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** What is the basis of fixing the price of the rice—bilateral or international?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It is on a basis between us and them.

**Shri Velayudhan:** Was the purchase made before settling the price?

**Mr. Speaker:** The answer is obvious.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** What is the period of the contract?

**Shri Karmarkar:** It was a lump contract. The agreement was signed on

the 31st January 1952 and the contract ends on 15th September 1952.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** In the past there have been complaints in regard to the proper grading of rice that is imported from Thailand. May I know whether this time Government have taken any steps for the proper grading and standardisation of the quality of the rice?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I suppose every time we take sufficient care.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know what is the quantity given to the famine-stricken areas in India out of this rice that is imported from Thailand?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Sir, that is about the internal distribution and I would like to have notice.

## TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES

\*1835. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities which are linked with overseas countries with submarine cable routes; and

(b) the names of cities which are linked with overseas countries with radio telegraph and telephone services?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Three, namely, Bombay, Madras and Dhanushkodi;

(b) Three, namely, Bombay, Delhi and Madras—Bombay by both telegraph and telephone and Delhi and Madras by telegraph only.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether preliminary work has started in any city on the expansion project of the external wireless communications system?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Yes, it has started at Calcutta.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know in which of these three cities the expansion programme is likely to be completed this year?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot exactly say whether it would be possible this year, but as I have already said we have acquired a site for transmitting station at Calcutta we have also acquired equipment for a pilot station there and we are going to acquire very soon a site for the receiving station also.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the amount of money allocated to these three cities for this purpose?