

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?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give it from memory, but that question I have replied earlier during this session.

Shri Nana Das: What are the countries with which we are having this sort of communication?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a long list, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The information has been given before.

DOLLAR EARNING CROPS

*1836. **Shri Shivnanjappa:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have set up a Committee in respect of dollar-earning crops;

(b) if so, the personnel of the Committee; and

(c) the progress made by the Committee so far?

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

(b) (1) Shri K. R. Damle, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture—*Chairman*.

(2) Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India.

(3) Dr. T. G. Shirname, Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India.

(4) Shri A. K. Menon, representing producing areas.

(5) Shri N. Alexander, representing producing areas.

(6) Shri C. M. John, Director, Coconut Research Station.

(7) Shri A. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer (who resigned due to ill health), and

(8) Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(c) The Committee has been collecting information from interested persons, associations and planters etc. by enquiries on the spot. It has already finished its work in Travancore-Cochin. It will visit the other States of Madras, Mysore, Coorg, Bombay and Orissa as soon as possible and submit a report thereafter.

Shri Shivnanjappa: Are there any representatives of cultivators serving on this Committee?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said, there are two representatives who represent the producers' interests.

Shri Shivnanjappa: May I know what are the crops which are classed as dollar-earning, how much dollar they earn and from what countries?

Shri Karmarkar: I would refer the hon. Member to the sea-borne trade figures which are available in the Library of the House.

Shri P. T. Chacko: What are the functions of the Committee which, it is stated, is collecting statistics? Statistics about what?

Shri Karmarkar: The idea was this. The attention of the Planning Commission was drawn early last year to the inadequate attention paid to the various aspects of production and marketing of some of the important dollar-earning crops in the South like pepper, cardamom, cashewnut, turmeric, ginger, lemon-grass, etc. and the need for taking concerted measures to promote production and export.

Shri Bansal: May I know if coconut is also exported, because there is one person on this Committee from the Coconut Research Station?

Shri Karmarkar: The coir is exported, not coconut.

G. N. I. T. COMPANY

*1838. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount paid by Government to the Gwalior and Northern India Transport Company when the latter was nationalised;

(b) the amount out of the total which related to the cost of vehicles and stock and how much was paid as compensation to the company;

(c) whether there was any agreement making it obligatory on Government to retain all their staff and continuing *status quo* with regard to their pay and allowances etc.;

(d) whether there was any agreement with the Company that for a period of five years the Company will be entitled to run its buses on any of the routes which Government might at some later stage give up; and

(e) the basic principles of the evaluation of the buses and other stock?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Rs. 26,55,019/-.

(b) Rs. 25,66,919/- on account of the cost of vehicles and stock, and Rs. 88,100/- as compensation.