

of bamboos for protection against insect attack has been developed at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the process of prophylactic treatment has been developed on an economical and commercial basis?

Shri Kidwai: Well, it has been tried by our army and about the cost there is no mention. I couldn't reply to the hon. Member's question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the treatment will be repeated on some kinds of wood?

Shri Kidwai: It has been tried on Bamboo; it will be efficacious on wood also.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how long the treatment will last and how it compares with the tar treatment?

Shri Kidwai: It has been considered to be an improvement on tar treatment.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: May I know the varieties of bamboos experimented?

Shri Kidwai: I am not much aware of the varieties of Bamboos.

RATIONING OF RICE

*139. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States in India where the people are predominantly rice-eating;

(b) which of the States in India are observing austerity rationing of rice; and

(c) which of the States take the highest ration of rice and the amount of daily ration *per capita* per day?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The States where the people are predominantly rice-eating are:—Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Eastern U.P., West Bengal, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Coorg, Manipur, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar.

(b) All the States are observing the maximum possible austerity in the issue of rice. None except habitual rice-eater gets more than 4 ozs of rice ration anywhere in the country.

(c) In the statutorily rationed areas, the highest ration of rice for rice eaters is 7 ozs in Madras, 6 ozs. in the States of Assam, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Delhi and Andaman-Nicobar.

Shri S. C. Samanta: With reference to part (b), may I know in which States voluntary austerity rationing is prevalent?

Shri Kidwai: Austerity rationing is confined to rice-eating people.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the shortage of rice, would the hon. Minister be pleased to state if the Government are envisaging any scheme of not supplying rice ration to the States which are not habitually rice-eating and giving it to the States who are habitually so?

Shri Kidwai: In some parts it has been done. In other States the matter has been taken up with them.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Has the Government of Madras requested this Government to permit them to issue 8 ounces instead of 7 ounces in view of the fact that in Madras State they do not eat wheat but depend entirely on rice?

Shri Kidwai: I am not aware of any such request. But I understand that the Madras Government is considering the question of raising the rice ration.

Shri N. S. Nair: Are the Government aware that though in Travancore-Cochin districts the ration is 6 ounces, not more than 4 ounces of rice are given to the people at large on an average?

Shri Meghmad Saha: Has the hon. Minister's attention been drawn to the fact that rice-eating States are going Communist and will he consider prohibiting the eating of rice in those States?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: May I ask the hon. Minister if any attempt is being made to divert wheat that is being supplied to Madras to non-rice eating areas and get rice from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and other wheat-eating areas?

Shri Kidwai: I am afraid these questions are all suggestions. They do not expect an answer from me.

AIR ACCIDENT NEAR NAGPUR (ENQUIRY)

*140. **Shri A. C. Gaha:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the enquiry into the