

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

recent accident at Nagpur to the night Air Mail plane has been completed?

(b) What are the findings of the enquiry?

(c) Has any action been taken on and in consequence of the enquiry?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes Sir. A copy of the Report has been placed in the Library.

(b) The finding is that "the accident was due to error of judgement by the pilot when attempting landing during night. He misjudged the approach, undershot and hit the top branches of a tree".

(c) The Committee made certain recommendations of which a copy is placed on the Table [See Appendix I, annexure No. 35.]

These have been accepted by Government and are being implemented.

Mr. Speaker: I asked you to read the answer twice. Still we are not able to hear.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I cannot do louder than this, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: As I said, the difficulty is that noises have been going on in the House as a result of talks between Members. But if the House remains quite quiet then the difficulty will be less. There is also another reason, I am afraid, and we shall have to get it examined—that it is difficult always in a loudspeaker to transmit the sound to the back. Therefore, all hon. Members should stick to the rule more rigorously of addressing the Chair instead of addressing the House, apart from the decorum rule. If, therefore, the hon. Minister faces the Chair and if any hon. Member who wants to put any supplementary question also faces the Chair, perhaps the sound will travel better.

Shri A. C. Guha: In view of the fact that there have been three major accidents in this company, have the Government considered whether there is anything fundamentally wrong with the management and workings of the company?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Well, Sir, this accident is being investigated by a Court of Inquiry and we have not received the report as yet. The two accidents which occurred on previous occasions have been investigated and I have said in the answer that the recommendations of the investigating Committee are being implemented. Two Committees have been set up by

Government, one to examine the existing operating procedure and practice and recommend such measures as will make the best contribution to safety, and the other is to examine the existing system of air pilot training in all its aspects and recommend steps for its improvement. When the report of the Court of Inquiry is received, we will further examine whether there is anything wrong with the operating company.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, whether the directive that the question of crew fatigue particularly on night services should be studied in consultation with experts on aeronautical medicine, referred to in Clause (iii) of the recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry, has been observed subsequently and whether the last accident at Delhi was due to the non-observance of this?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: This matter is also being gone into by the first committee. Whether this accident was due to this or not, it is too early to say.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: In the findings of the Enquiry Committee, is there any reference to the number of flying hours put in by this particular pilot, just preceding the disaster?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Here, I have got with me the experience of flying hours in respect of all the pilots; it is a long list. I would only like to say that all the pilots had the necessary experience of flying hours, and were qualified under the license.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Sir, my question has been misunderstood. What I wanted to know was whether the hon. the Minister has any means of ascertaining the number of flying hours put in by each pilot before the commencement of flight?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Still, the question is not clear.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's point is whether probably there was an error of judgment in the flying hours, and because of that, the particular pilot was almost overstrained, and had not got previously the necessary rest. His point is whether in this particular case, the pilot who started the flight had had sufficient rest.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not got the information just with me, but I shall look into the matter. I shall also see that the pilots get the necessary rest before they are asked by their companies to take up another flight.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not true, Sir, that in the Delhi accident, as was stated in the Court of Enquiry, the pilot in question.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, let us not go into a discussion of the matter.

Shri A. C. Guha: It is the same question, Sir, as to whether the pilot had not had sufficient rest.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has already stated the answer.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether one of the causes for this accident was lack of ground personnel?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think so, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated that Courts of enquiries have been set up. These two inquiries are about the general working of the Air Companies; but nothing has been stated as to the inquiry into the working of this company. It being a Government concern, have they considered the desirability of having a stricter enforcement of discipline, and the observance of the rules?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Certainly, Sir.

WHEAT (PURCHASE)

*141. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total purchase of wheat made in the foreign countries during the year 1952 up till April?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The total quantity of wheat purchased in the foreign countries during the period 1st January to 30th April 1952 is approximately 9 lakh tons.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know, Sir, the different countries from which the wheat was purchased?

Shri Kidwai: 8.59 lakhs of tons from the U.S.A., and Canada 0.5 lakhs of tons. Half of the order has not been required. From the United States of America, about 5 lakhs of tons are to be purchased by December 1952, of which nearly 2 lakhs of tons are to be shipped by the Department by December 1952.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know, Sir, whether this purchase was made under the International Wheat Agreement, or the prices were settled separately in each case?

Shri Kidwai: The purchase was made under the International Wheat Agreement. But from the U.S.A. 4 lakhs of tons are on loan.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the limitations of food subsidy which are likely to result in the diminution of the needs of the different States, in the future months, the import is going to be cut down?

Shri Kidwai: It is a difficult question to answer, because the need of the country remains what it was. It may be that on account of the rise in prices, it may go beyond the purchasing capacity of individuals, and therefore the wheat has not been required. But our attempt should be that whatever is needed should be provided at a reasonable price; and therefore it is difficult to foresee what will be our requirement for the next six months.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know, Sir, for how long we are likely to import wheat?

Shri Kidwai: Until we become the producers of wheat in this country.

Shrimati A. Kale: When do we expect to reach that target?

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the additional amount required?

Shri Kidwai: We have placed the order, Sir, and the delivery will take place by December 6th. We shall require about two million tons.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*142. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have evolved a scheme to set up a Land Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the purpose and function of the Corporation;

(c) whether this Corporation will work on a Commercial basis;

(d) if so, what will be its relation with the Government; and

(e) how the finances of the Corporation will be raised?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (e) There is at present only a proposal to set up a Land Development Corporation. No decision has been taken as to whether it should work on a commercial basis, what should be its relation to the Government and how its finances should be raised.