

(b) the grant given to the Madras Government by the Central Government for relief measures?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Attention is invited to the Answer to Starred Question No. 32 on 20th May 1952.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether and if so to what extent a special grant has been made to the Madras Government for the relief of famine in Rayalaseema?

Shri Karmarkar: I do not have the exact amount, but I may say that the Government of India have agreed to bear 50 per cent. of the expenditure on gruel centres opened in the scarcity areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 48 lakhs.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know what amount has been given as grant from the P.M.'s famine relief fund and to which agency has it been given, viz. the Madras Government or any other private agency?

Shri Karmarkar: Regarding the first part of the question, Rs. 373 lakhs and 5 thousand have been given by the Prime Minister from the funds at his disposal for the purpose of general relief. But I am not sure of the agency through which this fund is to be worked.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Apart from, I think, a grant of Rs. 25,000, the agency has been the Governor of Madras.

Shri Raghobachari: Is there any scheme to prevent the recurrence of famine?

Shri Karmarkar: This question is about relief of famine.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Government have received representations from the Travancore-Cochin Government to the effect that relief measures may be extended to certain coastal areas in that State?

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid the question relates to Andhra Desa.

Mr. Speaker: Besides, it is outside the scope.

RUSSIAN WHEAT (PRICE)

*229. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the price of Russian wheat purchased by India;

(b) how the Exchange Value between the Russian Rouble and Indian Rupee was calculated; and

(c) whether there is any agreement between India and Russia on the exchange Value of the respective currencies?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The wheat obtained from Russia last year was against a barter deal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the rate of exchange between the Indian rupee and the Russian rouble is assessed on the sterling or not?

Shri Karmarkar: Our transactions with Russia are through sterling, but I am not aware on the basis of the material available to me at the moment what is the rate of the rupee in terms of the rouble.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: How does the barter deal work out on the basis of rupee rouble exchange?

Shri Karmarkar: As the hon. Member will understand, barter deal is on the basis of exchange and the ratio between the rouble and the rupee does not come into the picture. In this instance, Russia supplied us wheat, 100,399 metric tons, in exchange for the following Indian commodities: raw jute 5,000 metric tons; shellac 2,500 metric tons; tea 1,850 metric tons and tobacco 5,500 metric tons. The price of the one was equal to the price of the other.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: How does this compare with the price paid for U.S. wheat?

Shri Karmarkar: I think this transaction should compare favourably like every other transaction.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any difficulty in the matter of trade transactions because this exchange has not been decided as between the Russian rouble and the Indian rupee?

Mr. Speaker: He is proceeding on an assumption.

Shri Velayudhan: No, Sir. He said that the exchange has not been decided and it is on that, I am asking the question.

Mr. Speaker: He said that it is not necessary to decide that, because goods are exchanged on barter basis.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what are the commodities that have been supplied by the Indian Government to the Russian Government for importing Russian communism into India?

Shri Karmarkar: I am afraid the hon. Member did not hear my reply.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

FODDER POSITION

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

(a) the cattle-fodder position in India; and

(b) whether Government have any scheme for the development of grassland in India?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The quantity of fodder produced in the country is not normally sufficient to maintain the entire cattle population in a state of nutrition necessary to enable them to produce their best. The overall shortage cannot, however, be termed as scarcity of such a nature as to cause loss of life. However, due to the failure of summer monsoon in 1951, acute scarcity of cattle feeds was reported from the States of Punjab, Ajmer, Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Bombay, Delhi and Pepsu. The situation has been put under control in all the States except Punjab (Hissar District) which was reported to be deteriorating about the middle of March. Since then fodder has been rushed from all sides and the position is steadily improving.

(b) Primarily, development of grasslands is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government of India are, however, financing certain schemes of research on problems affecting animal nutrition and improvement of pastures as shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(i) Scheme for determining the nutritive value of certain indigenous grasses and leafy fodders.

(ii) Scheme for the survey of grass lands and collection, testing and distribution of indigenous and exotic pasture grasses and

legumes, at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

(iii) Scheme for the improvement of pasture grasses and legumes in Bombay State.

(iv) Scheme for the improvement of pasture grasses and legumes in Madhya Pradesh.

(v) Scheme for the trial of Indian Pueraria species and for investigations on factors influencing flowering and seed setting in Kudzu Vine, at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether some cattle have actually died in Hissar?

Shri Karmarkar: I have no information on the point. What I said was that the overall normal shortage cannot however be termed as scarcity of such a nature as to cause loss of life. That is the general proposition—whether there has been any loss of life in individual areas it is not possible to say.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the cost involved in the grass development schemes.

Shri Karmarkar: I should ask for notice of the question.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is not so much a case of grass development schemes, but a choice between pasture lands and cultivation of foodgrains. That difficulty has often to be faced.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know in which area or which States of the country these grass development schemes have been embarked upon?

Shri Karmarkar: In Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. Some experiments are being carried on in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Do we export any grass seeds?

Shri Karmarkar: Not to my knowledge.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : अधिक अन्न उपजाने के आन्दोलन की तरह अधिक घास उगाने के आन्दोलन की ज़रूरत सरकार समझती है या नहीं? यदि समझती है तो इस के लिये कौन कौन से उपाय हो रहे हैं?