

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?

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Do the Government feel any necessity of launching any Grow More Grass campaign similar to the Grow More Food campaign? If so, what steps are being taken in this direction?]

Mr. Speaker: The question does not relate to Grow More Food. It specifically relates to fodder supply.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know whether there is acute shortage of fodder in the Dharapuram taluq of the Coimbatore district as a result of which many of the fine breed of Kangayam bulls have perished?

Shri Karmarkar: On both these points I shall find out the information.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी ने पंजाब सरकार की उस विज्ञप्ति को देखा है जिसमें उन्होंने इस बात को मंजूर किया है कि हिसार में हज़ारों जानवरों की जानें चली गई हैं और इस समय वहां की परिस्थिति कैसी है ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Have the Government seen the press note of the Punjab Government in which it has been admitted that thousands of animals have perished in Hissar, and which also throws light on the conditions prevailing there at present.]

Shri Karmarkar: Government is aware of the fact that a large number of cattle were abandoned by their owners. Therefore, the Government of India took speedy measures to establish concentration stations for such cattle to take proper care of them. About any loss of life I have no information on the point.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*231. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total quantity of food grains imported from abroad under the International Wheat Agreement since this Agreement came into force?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): Since the International Wheat Agreement came into force on the 1st August 1949 India has until 20th May 1952 imported a total quantity of 35.77 lakh metric tons of wheat under the agreement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether our import programme

of wheat will suffer because of the failure of the London Conference which was held recently in order to review the International Wheat Agreement?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir.

Shri Dabhi: What are the terms of this International Wheat Agreement?

Shri Karmarkar: Under this agreement we are allotted a definite quantity of wheat for import. For instance, in 1949-50 the guaranteed quantity was 1 million 40 thousand tons; in 1950-51 it was 15 hundred thousand tons; in 1951-52 and the following year it is the same quantity. There is a ceiling price and floor price fixed for this. For instance the minimum price in the four years is 1.50, 1.40, 1.30 and 1.20 dollars per bushel.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What are the countries that participated in the International Wheat Agreement?

Shri Karmarkar: The wheat requiring and the wheat consuming countries take part in this Agreement. In regard to the exact name of the countries, I would require notice of it.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know the price per ton of wheat that was paid during each year?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri V. B. Gandhi: Is the price that we have been paying for wheat imported from the United States recently higher than the price that we have to pay under the International Wheat Agreement? Would the Government please give the two prices?

Shri Karmarkar: I cannot give the price offhand of the wheat supplied to us under the Wheat Loan Agreement. But about the wheat supplied under the International Wheat Agreement, the prices were substantially lesser than the prices in the free market.

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS BY PEST AND PLANT DISEASES

*232. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total percentage of country's foodgrains lost annually by pest and plant diseases?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): I fear an estimate of these losses is not at present possible. I am having examined the possibility of sampling techniques