

[**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 वहाँ 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

being evolved to assess such damage but the cost will of course be an important consideration.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government contemplate taking any action to control plant diseases?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said, a detailed scheme is under consideration; obviously, it will be a matter of cost.

COWDUNG

*233. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to conduct research into the possibilities of preparing cooking gas and fertiliser out of cowdung as suggested by the Engineering Department of the U.S. Government; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) I am not aware that Engineering Department of the U.S. Government has made any suggestions about this. Research on the subject has been conducted at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, since 1940.

(b) The results of the experiments conducted with a simple demonstration plant show that cow-dung produced by 4 or 5 animals (about 130-150 lbs. daily) will yield about 70-80 cubic feet of combustible gas per day. The residual material does not lose the manurial value and also produces annually about 3 tons of dried sludge containing about 1.5 per cent. nitrogen. The gas is sufficient to meet the daily cooking requirements of an average family.

The question of setting up and operating a bigger plant at the Institute for testing the economics of gas production is under consideration.

श्री ऐम० ऐल० द्विवेदी : क्या माननीय वंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि एक ऐसा प्लांट लगाने में क्या खर्च पड़ेगा और क्या आर्थिक दृष्टि से यह ठीक होगा ?

[Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the cost of installation of such a plant, and also

whether it would be feasible from the financial point of view?]

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir, we have, for instance a gas plant evolved by Mr. A. V. Joshi and Co. of Poona. The prices were fixed by the firm at Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 1,800 respectively for gas plants for a family of 2 and 4 persons respectively.

श्री ऐम० ऐल० द्विवेदी : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि दिल्ली से १२ मील के फासले पर एक ऐसा प्लांट लगाया गया है या लगाया जा रहा है ? और अगर लगाया गया है तो उस का क्या उपयोग हो रहा है ?

[Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a plant has been installed or is being installed at a place which is at a distance of about 12 miles from Delhi? If so, for what purpose is it being used at present?]

Shri Karmarkar: So far as I know an experimental plant is being completed by the manufacturers at Shamilpur, in the Delhi State, for testing it under field conditions.

NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION

*234. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to remodel the Railway station of New Delhi; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to materialise?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The work is proposed to be taken in hand shortly and it will be completed during 1953-54.

श्री ऐम० ऐल० द्विवेदी : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस नयी दिल्ली स्टेशन के रिमाडल करने का कितना व्यय होगा ?

[Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what would be the cost of remodelling of the New Delhi Railway Station?]

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : करीब ५१ लाख ।