

श्री जगजीवन राम : इस तरह की वेधशालायें तो मुल्क में हैं और अभी उनको ज्यादा बढ़ाने का कोई भी प्रस्ताव सरकार के सामने नहीं है।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: Such observatories are already existing in the country; and the Government have no proposal before them for increasing their number at present.]

खाद्यान्न का आयात

*२४२. श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मई १९५१ से मई १९५२ तक के काल में भारत में किन किन देशों से खाद्यान्न मंगाया गया ;

(ख) इस काल में कितने खाद्यान्न का आयात किया गया ; तथा

(ग) इस काल में विदेशों से खाद्यान्न मंगाने के लिए भारत सरकार को कितना रुपया खर्च करना पड़ा था ?

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

[*242. Shri Balmiki: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) from what countries foodgrains were imported in India during the period from May, 1951 to May, 1952;

(b) what quantity of foodgrains was imported during the said period; and

(c) what expenditure the Government of India had to incur in importing the foodgrains from foreign countries during the said period?]

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) During the 12 months May, 1951 to April, 1952 foodgrains were imported from:—

- (1) Australia.
- (2) U.S.A.
- (3) Canada.
- (4) Argentine.
- (5) Russia.
- (6) Burma.
- (7) Thailand.
- (8) Egypt.
- (9) China and
- (10) Pakistan.

(b) 5.4 million tons.

(c) Complete accounts of payments made have not yet been received but on the basis of information available, the cost is likely to be about 254.7 crores of rupees.

श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि बाहर से आये हुये अन्न की प्रति देश के अनुसार प्रति मन क्या क्या कीमतें हैं ?

[Shri Balmiki: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the price per maund of foodgrains, imported from abroad, country-wise?]

Shri Karmarkar: I have not got the information ready at hand. If the hon. Member puts down a question, I shall give the answer.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether there has been a complaint that certain deficit States are having their quota mostly from imported foodgrains and that they have to pay a higher price, and that they are not allowed a proportionate quantity from locally procured foodgrains?

Shri Karmarkar: Distribution inland, I am afraid, does not arise out of this question. If it does, I want notice.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know the quantity of rice imported from Burma and Thailand as compared with the previous year? Does it show an improvement? How do the prices compare with the prices paid last year?

Shri Karmarkar: I have the figures for actual import of rice from Burma and Thailand. From Burma, the quantity is 349,861 tons. The price paid was Rs. 20,75,07,664. From Thailand, the quantity is 188,559 tons and the price paid was Rs. 10,71,27,771. As to how these compare with the last year, I should like to have notice.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if the prices of the imported foodgrains were lower or higher than the prices of the foodgrains available in this country?

Shri Karmarkar: I think my hon. friend knows that the average price of imported foodgrains is higher than the Indian prices.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: If the prices are higher, may I know why the Government do not propose to increase the prices of foodgrains here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Does this figure, 254.7 crores, include shipping charges and other costs?

Shri Karmarkar: I should think so; but I should like to have notice.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. R. K. Chaudhuri. But, the hon. Member did not keep standing.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I am invisible.

Mr. Speaker: Even while he is sitting, he is perfectly visible.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the quota of Burma rice which was hitherto known as the Rangoon rice has improved in recent years? It was full of stones before.

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

WORLD WHEAT COUNCIL

*243. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the quantity of wheat that India purchases annually under the existing agreement of the World Wheat Council?

(b) What is the duration of the Agreement and is the quantity proposed to be increased for the current and future years?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) India's present guaranteed quota under the International Wheat Agreement is 1.5 million metric tons per year. The year under the agreement is from 1st August to 31st July.

(b) The duration of the agreement is four years viz., from August, 1949 to July, 1953. It is not proposed to ask for any increase in India's guaranteed quantity for the unexpired period of the agreement.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Did we purchase the entire quota of wheat in 1951? Now, what portion has been purchased in 1952?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice regarding the precise quantity of wheat purchased.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the total amount that the wheat producing countries which participated in this Agreement can supply us?

Shri Karmarkar: I gave answer to this question a little while ago in reply to a question. I think for the last three

years, it was 1.5 million.—I forget the figure.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether the price that we pay for wheat or rice is the same from all countries?

Shri Karmarkar: I think the prices vary; I have no definite information.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is there any proposal to extend the period of the Agreement beyond 1953?

Shri Karmarkar: We have indicated our desire to have the Agreement renewed for another period of four years at the current maximum and minimum prices and the same guaranteed quantity of 1.5 metric tons.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that many people are not taking their ration of wheat because of its inferior quality?

Shri Karmarkar: I know off-hand; but it does not arise out of this question.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the difference in price between imported wheat and wheat procured in India and the control rate in India?

Mr. Speaker: Control rates for procurement?

Shri Jhunjhunwala: Yes.

Shri Karmarkar: Broadly I can say that the price of imported wheat is higher than inland wheat and the control rate is somewhere between the two. Off-hand, I could not give the precise figures regarding the three varieties.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know how and when Government would try to reach the production target in wheat so far as consumption by the Indian masses is concerned?

Shri Karmarkar: As the hon. Member knows, the Planning Commission has definite plans. At the end of five years, we propose to have 7.6 million tons more than we are producing at present. Even then, it is thought that 2 million tons will have to be imported for 4 or 5 years.

WORLD RICE (DISTRIBUTION)

*244. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the result of the Conference held at Singapore in March, 1952 regarding fair distribution of World rice;