

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;

(b) what quota was allowed to India and whether it meets her need of rice consumption for the current year; and

(c) what countries took part in this Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the Fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee on rice held at Singapore on the 25th and the 26th March, 1952. The main object of this meeting was to review rice supply and demand prospects for 1952. It did not propose to make any allocations of rice.

(b) does not arise.

(c) A list of the countries which took part in this meeting is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Aden
Australia
Ceylon
France
Hongkong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Laos
Federation of Malaya
Mauritius
Netherlands.
North Borneo
Pakistan
The Philippines
Portugal
Sarawak
The Seychelles.
Singapore
Thailand
U.S.A.
Viet Nam.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know what are the rice producing countries that participated in this Conference?

Shri Karmarkar: The whole list is given. Regarding as to what exactly are the rice producing countries, I shall have to find out.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the total quantity of rice that the rice producing countries can make available for purchase and for fair distribution?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know why Burma was ignored in this Conference?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not sure

whether the hon. Member is correct. Burma was invited; but the Government of Burma were unable to send a representative. They requested that they be provided with a copy of the report and I think a copy of the report was sent to them.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What are the countries from which India was allowed to purchase rice?

Shri Karmarkar: The countries from which we actually imported rice was given by me a moment ago in reply to a previous question. There is no question of being allowed or not allowed. Whatever is available, we are allowed to import.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Under this Agreement?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, surely.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether the Food Ministry will send more rice to the Madras State where rice is the staple food?

Shri Karmarkar: That is not on the agenda of the Singapore Conference.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Since we are giving wheat to Pakistan, may I know whether any attempt has been made to get rice from them in exchange?

Shri Karmarkar: I said the other day that we do expect to get some rice in exchange. But, whether that expectation will fructify or not, is a matter for the future.

COAL INDUSTRY

***245. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a transport bottleneck from which the coal industry is suffering for the last few months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same;

(c) the steps that have been taken or are proposed to be taken for removing the bottleneck; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the non-availability of wagons has compelled traders to use motor trucks and this has given them an opportunity to evade the coal cesses imposed by Government?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) to (c). There has been no particular bottleneck during the last few months in respect of movement of coal by rail.