

Shri K. D. Malaviya: If the hon. Member puts a separate question on this, I will give an answer.

Shri Balwant Singh Mehta: Is it a fact, Sir, that synthetic mica has got certain advantages over mica splittings in its use?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are not producers of synthetic mica, and therefore, we cannot say anything about it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it under the contemplation of Government, Sir, to produce synthetic mica from scrap mica in India?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, Sir. We do not need to produce synthetic mica because we have the genuine stuff.

COLOMBO PLAN AID

*913. **Shri Raghaviah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what are the allocations of wheat made for the current fiscal year, by the Government of Canada, under the Colombo Plan aid;

(b) how much it is less or more than the allocation made last year by the same Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had requested for a greater allocation of wheat for this year; and

(d) how much more aid under the Colombo Plan will be rendered by the Government of Canada for this year and in what forms?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) \$5 million for the purchase of wheat.

(b) Last year's allocation was \$10 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) \$8.6 million for supply of equipment for an approved development project or projects.

Shri Raghaviah: May I know the shipping facilities given to the transport of this wheat from Canada to this country?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member feels that Canada itself must afford shipping facilities for the transport of this wheat. Were any shipping facilities given to us by Canada?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: No shipping facilities were offered.

Shri Damodara Menon: Arising out of answer to (c), may I know, Sir, how far the request for greater allocation of wheat is compatible with the declared policy of the Government to reduce the import of wheat?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a question for opinion.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether the wheat given by Canada to India is by way of loan or by way of grant?

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): Sir, it is according to the Colombo Plan that we received this. Some of the members of Parliament in Canada felt that rather than exporting wheat to that amount they may give some other articles which we need here. But we insisted that we get wheat, sell it here and then utilise the amount in development plans, so that we might use the money wherever it was needed. Canada has agreed this time to provide us with wheat worth five million dollars and for the next year, our representative who is at present in U.S.A. will negotiate with them and we shall soon be in a position to know as to what this aid will come to in future.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if a considerable portion of the wheat supplied by Canada last year was found unfit for human consumption?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I have no information, Sir.

Shri Raghaviah: May I know, Sir, whether the allocation of wheat made by this Government this year is more or less than it was last year?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is less, Sir. It is given in the answer.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the relative prices of wheat in the internal market in Canada and that paid for by us and also how it compares with the International price?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is a question of details for other countries but I may inform the member that the wheat is purchased under the International Wheat Agreement.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether the wheat we are getting from Canada is purchased in the open market or whether the Government of Canada purchases and sends it to India?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is a government to government transaction and is under the International Wheat Agreement.