

consumption in West Bengal was re-directed to Madras?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That question relates to boiled rice which was called by the hon. member as 'rotten' rice, because he was not used to it. But it is commonly used in Madras and they like and want it.

Shri Gidwani: On what basis do they say.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, I am calling upon the next member.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know the special reasons which compelled the Government of India to assume responsibility for feeding the people of Calcutta alone in preference to areas like Rayalaseema to whom even the promised rice was not given properly.

Shri Nambiar: With regard to boiled rice and rotten rice, is it a fact that Madrassis are eating only rotten rice?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Raghavaiah: I want my question to be answered, because the people of Rayalaseema.....

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is to be used for eliciting information and not for arguments....

Shri Raghavaiah: My question did not elicit information from the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: He is only arguing the point.

Shri Gidwani: How does the hon. Minister know that this rotten rice is popular?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is trying to argue. What is the reason for the presumption that it was rotten rice—a mere press statement?

Shri Gidwani: That matter has been admitted.

Shri Raghavaiah: Sir, my question has not yet been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Next question, Mr. Chatterjea. The hon. member will not put any more questions.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICERS

*66. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Government of India have appointed two Social Security Officers from U.K.?

(b) What are the terms of their appointment?

(c) Are there no Labour Officers or Trade Union functionaries in India capable of fulfilling the work for which these experts are coming?

(d) Were attempts made to get or train Indians for this particular work?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The services of three officers of the United Kingdom Ministry of National Insurance and Health have been procured by the Government of India for six months on the basis of an agreement between the International Labour Organisation and the Government of India to advise them and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation as experts on social security under the Technical Assistance Programme.

(b) The Government of India is liable to pay only expenses on travel within the country, daily allowance for days of travel, living and office accommodation, medical care and hospitalization and other necessary Secretariat assistance. Their salaries, and travel costs outside India, are being met by the International Labour Organisation.

(c) No.

(d) Since the scheme is the first of its kind in India it was not possible to get Indians with requisite qualifications who could undertake this work.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know, Sir, for what particular aspect of social security work for which services of Indians cannot be obtained, have these officers been brought?

Shri V. V. Giri: These experts are brought into the country in order to make us understand the administration of this particular kind of insurance which has not been in existence here and, therefore, they have been particularly brought here.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: May I know Sir, how far the help of the trade unions has been taken to meet the needs of the U.K. experts?

Shri V. V. Giri: The help of the trade unions is being taken.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is the total expenditure that has to be incurred by India for the sojourn in India of these experts?

Shri V. V. Giri: During the six months about Rs. 25,000.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: May I know, Sir, what steps were taken to find out whether young men with practical experience of this work are available in this country or not?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have already said that this scheme is being introduced in this country for the first time and the officers that are brought here were those who served in the U.K. Ministry of National Insurance and Health.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Is there any proposal to train up qualified Indians so long as these officers remain in India?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, what pattern of social security work these officers are expected to turn out during their stay in India?

Shri V. V. Giri: They have come here to assist us in setting up the whole organisation in this respect.

**JAPANESE UNDERGROUND CABLES
(COMMITTEE)**

*67. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the Government of India have appointed any committee to enquire into the purchase of Japanese Underground cables?

(b) If so, who are the members of the Committee?

(c) What are the terms of reference of the Committee?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. I lay a copy of the relevant Government resolution on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 12.]

Shri S. N. Das: From the Resolution placed on the Table of the House it appears that the Director-General, Supplies and Disposals placed an order with a certain firm for underground cables. May I know whether our Trade Agency in Japan was consulted at that time?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was not only consulted but it was entrusted with the task of going into the merits of the cable with regard to its quality.

Shri S. N. Das: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the remark made by the Comptroller and Auditor-General that if the order had been placed direct it would have resulted in some saving of money?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am afraid the hon. Member is perhaps not aware that that portion of the Audit Report has been withdrawn—Vide List of Corrections dated 3rd May 1952.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when this Committee is likely to submit its

report or whether it has already submitted it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I cannot give the exact time but the Committee is going into the question and I hope the report will be furnished very soon.

Shri Natesan: May I know when and where the defect was first discovered?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It was only found at one place. Only at Calcutta it was found that the upper jute covering was showing signs of peeling off in certain places. Most of it however has been retaped now. But at the other places it was found to be entirely satisfactory.

Shri Natesan: Were these cables not inspected in Japan before they were exported?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There was an inspector sent but it was not possible to inspect the entire lot of the cables; only portions were inspected.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether there is any purchasing agency of the India Government in Japan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is an Indian Liaison Mission, and normally it functions in this behalf also.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that the directive for inspection of the cables was communicated to the persons in Japan much later or almost on the eve of the despatch of the goods?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Of course they had been manufactured, but they had not actually been despatched, they were going to be despatched. It was provided in the terms of agreement that the inspection will be done with regard to the process of manufacturing and some sample testing was done.

TUBERCULOSIS

*68. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of persons suffering from tuberculosis, in India at present;

(b) whether the incidence of this disease is on the increase since 1947;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the causes of the increased incidence; and

(d) what are the regions in which tuberculosis is found most?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) About 2½ million.