

IMPORT OF RICE FROM CHINA

1971. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the People's Government of China have supplied the quantity of rice stipulated under the agreement of 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Yes, Sir, out of 150,000 metric tons of rice purchased under the two agreements about 142,000 tons have already been shipped from China and the balance is being lifted.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has the agreement for supply of rice from China been entered into for one year 1952 only, or is it recurring for some more years also?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are unable to come to any such agreement on account of the prevailing high prices. Only with Burma, we have got a contract according to which they have to supply us 3½ lakh tons of rice every year. As for China, as and when we require rice, if the prices are cheaper than in the case of the other countries like Thailand and other rice-exporting countries, we purchase from China. We have not got any permanent contract with China regarding rice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: How does the quality of the Chinese rice compare with that of the rice imported from Burma?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Regarding quality, the Chinese rice is considered to be good rice.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether it is a bilateral agreement? If so, what commodities are being sent to China in exchange of rice?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They were not interested in barter. They were interested in cash and against cash payments, we have purchased about 1,50,000 tons.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: May I know whether all the rice supplied is of the same quality?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There were three varieties, fine, superfine and coarse. All these three varieties have been supplied.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Is it a fact that the same prices were charged for the different varieties supplied, and that the prices were higher compared to the ones prevailing in India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Our local rice is comparatively cheaper than the imported rice. As for the first part

of the question, the price paid is the same for all these three varieties. When we entered into the contract first, it was at a particular rate, and they supply us rice, as they go on getting the different varieties.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is there any broken rice along with the rice supplied from China?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mixed up with it?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Burma has supplied broken rice; may I know whether China also has supplied broken rice, with or without agreement?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: From China, we get only these three varieties; but from Burma, we get broken rice also.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are any precautions taken to fumigate the China rice to reduce its redness?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It will become redder.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: On a point of information, Sir, I had sent a Short Notice Question regarding the strike in Nirnala College where it is alleged a student was kicked by the American Professor. Has that been allowed? I have not got it in my papers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The short notice question has not been put here. I therefore presume that it must have been sent. First of all, it has to be sent to the Minister and he is asked if he is in a position to reply at short notice or he wants a longer notice. It is in that process. The hon. Member may get the information from the office.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: This is a very important matter, Sir, because certain allegations of discrimination between white and non-white have been made and a student has been kicked by the American Professor. This raises a very important issue of Policy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When was that tabled?

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Yesterday morning.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will see that it takes some time. The hon. Member is very anxious that the strike ought not to go on. I am equally anxious. But it takes some time. I would, however, suggest to all hon. Members to remember that we get a number of short notice questions. We have to look into them and it takes

some time. It takes time for the Minister to look into them and find out whether he has got ready information and the time he wants. If any hon. Member is anxious that his or her question should be taken up immediately they will kindly tell me. I am not out of their reach.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I think it is automatically done by the office.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Automatically every short notice question is not admitted. We have to look into the short notice question to see whether it is admissible and then ask the Minister. All this procedure has to be gone through. If an hon. Member desires that it should be expedited, it is open to him to come to the Speaker and lay particular emphasis on it and it will be done.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EVICITION NOTICES FOR REALIZATION OF RENT ARREARS IN TRIPURA

*964. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how many eviction notices have been served this year on tenants of Tripura for the realization of rent arrears?

(b) How many tenants have submitted written petitions for cancellation of rent-arrears and for the substantial reduction of rent?

(c) Has any action been taken by Government on such petitions and if so, what is the nature of the action taken?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) 90.

(b) 194 petitions were filed for remission of rent and 9 for reduction of rent.

(c) The petitions for remission were rejected after enquiry. The petitions for reduction of rent are under consideration.

RAILWAY CARRIAGES (FANS)

371. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many III class Railway carriages in each of the zones, are fitted up with fans?

(b) How many carriages are still to be equipped in each zone?

(c) How long will it take to fit up fans in all the carriages?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). A statement showing the required information has been placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 56.]

SOCIAL INSURANCE ACT

372. **Shri H. N. Mokerjee:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Social Insurance Act of 1948 as amended in 1951 is being given effect to, and if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The Employees' State Insurance Scheme has been implemented in Delhi and Kanpur. In this connection, the hon. Member may kindly refer to the replies given to the Starred Questions Nos. 322, 100 and 2050 on the 4th March, 22nd May and the 24th July, 1952 respectively.

INDIAN MERCHANT NAVY PERSONNEL

373. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian Merchant Navy personnel have been trained since 1947 (year by year);

(b) the names of ships used for training;

(c) the names of training centres;

(d) the period of training;

(e) whether it is a fact that a new building is going to be constructed for housing Indian seamen; and

(f) if so, where the building will be located and what will be the cost of construction?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 59.]

(e) to (f). Yes. It is proposed to construct a building in Behala, Calcutta at an estimated cost of about Rs. 10 lakhs to provide hostel accommodation for about 260 seamen.

RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK (REPLACEMENT)

374. **Paadit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the total number of locomotives, passenger coaches and wagons requiring replacement during the current year, what is the quota of replacement of this year, and what is the arrears of the last year?

(b) What were the replacement requirements on the 1st April, 1951 in