

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know whether there was any undertaking regarding the treatment of Indian labourers in Ceylon and how far it is implemented?

Shri Abid Ali: There was not any undertaking, Sir.

MEDICAL STORES (GIFTS)

*1087. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that free gifts of certain non-consumable medical stores like ambulances, X-ray equipments etc. have been offered to India by certain philanthropic persons abroad; and

(b) if so, whether such free gifts stores are given any customs concessions?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Such gifts are often received by Missions and other Hospitals doing charitable work.

(b) Applications for re-imbusement of expenditure incurred on account of customs duty on such non-consumable medical stores are considered on merits by the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether requests have been made to the Government by those who have sent such non-consumable medical stores to India for the reimbursement of customs duties charged from them?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Hospitals and other institutions who are catering to the needs of the poor, irrespective of caste or creed, apply for it, and they are looked into and on merits they are given.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know, Sir, how these gifts are distributed and which States have been benefited by these gifts?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The gifts are not given through the States; but the gifts are sent directly to the charitable institutions from the donors overseas.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the department concerned of the State is consulted and its advice taken before any private institution is given these gifts?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: There is no information, Sir.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*1088. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary question to starred question No. 1102 asked on the 23rd June, 1952 regarding International Wheat Agreement and state the difference between the price of wheat purchased under the International Wheat Agreement and that purchased in the open market in the United States, Canada and Australia?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The prices paid in the open market purchases of wheat from Canada and U.S.A. were always higher than those paid under the International Wheat Agreement. They varied from time to time. In the case of Canada they were about \$17 per ton higher, while in the case of U.S.A. they were about \$28 per ton higher than the International Wheat Agreement prices. In Australia we could not make any purchases in the open market as that country had no wheat to sell except under the International Wheat Agreement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the price per ton of wheat according to this International Wheat Agreement?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I cannot give the exact price of the wheat in the public interest but it varies from 1.2 to 1.8 dollars per bushel.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the difference between our internal price and the International Wheat Agreement price?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We cannot compare our grain with that of foreign countries.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, how much wheat is going to be bought from the open market?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Last year we have purchased about 21,74,000 tons.

Shri Dabhi: Next year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Under this International Wheat Agreement, the crop year is taken as the year for all practical purposes. It begins from the first of August and ends with the 31st of July. Last year, that is the year beginning with August 1, 1951 and ending with July 31, 1952, we have purchased 21,74,000 tons outside the Wheat Agreement. Next year, that means from July onwards, i.e., from August this year till July next, we are not purchasing outside this International Wheat Agreement.