

know the selection is done by the State Governments and the candidates are then accepted by the Nursing College here.

SUPPLY OF BAD WHEAT AND RICE AT DELHI RATION DEPOTS

*189. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the general complaint that the quality of wheat, atta and rice generally supplied at the Ration Depots in Delhi is not good;

(b) whether this complaint was carefully examined and facts ascertained;

(c) whether it is a fact that the foreign wheat and rice supplied at the Delhi Ration Depots are of very inferior quality and contain less nutritious elements; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (d). There have been such complaints occasionally, and they have been examined. The facts are that there was nothing inherently wrong with the quality of the rice or wheat or wheat atta supplied from the Ration Shops; but consumers have shown preference to the indigenous varieties. Complaints arose mainly because of the flavour of the rice which, at one time, was in issue, and because the look of the wheat was less acceptable to the consumers.

As a further check on quality of foodgrains issued, arrangements have been made for screening and cleaning foodgrains; and Gazetted Officers have been posted at the Issue Depots to check quality before issue to A.R.Ds.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Is it a fact that a considerable quantity of rotten and worm-eaten grains were dumped into the ration shops at Delhi?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It was not worm-eaten grain. It was imported wheat. The imported wheat always looks inferior to indigenous varieties. Before the 15th of June, we were supplying indigenous wheat to the Delhi people. When we switched on to the imported wheat, there was a marked difference in the look of the grain. So, there was some dissatisfaction expressed by the people. Immediately, we attended to that.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Did it look inferior or was it really inferior?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It looked inferior in colour.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Why was most of the foreign grain dumped into Delhi ration shops only?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No; it is not dumped. Foreign grain will be exhausted by the end of December. From early January, we are getting indigenous varieties of wheat for supply in Delhi. Hon. Member must know we are also living in Delhi. It not only comes to the notice of the Government, we will have to experience if anything goes wrong here.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश को इस सम्बन्ध में क्या सहायता दी गयी और क्या सहायता दी जाने वाली है ?

साक्ष तपा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किशवाई) : आप किस सम्बन्ध में उत्तर प्रदेश को सहायता देने की बात कर रहे हैं ?

DAMAGE TO FOOD CROPS

*190. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the damage caused by recent floods and other causes in various parts of India (State-wise);

(b) the extent of the damage caused to (i) crops; and (ii) agricultural lands; and

(c) the extent of help directly given by the Central Government or proposed to be given?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 47]

(c) At the request of the Governments of Assam and Manipur 15,000 maunds of rice were allotted to Assam and 4,000 maunds to Manipur at concessional rate to be distributed among the affected people at Rs. 15 per maund.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Was any grant given to the State Governments also as help?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Was any request for help received by the Central Government from the State Governments?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The Assam Government asked us to allot some rice at concessional rates and that has been done.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: With reference to the other causes referred to in part (a) of the question, has the attention of the Government been drawn to a peculiar disease which has attacked the rice crop in Burdwan, Murshidabad, Southern 24 Parganas and other districts? What is the report of the Government, if the Government has got any report in that respect? It is a widespread disease which has caused a lot of damage to the crop.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If my friend is referring to rice bug which has been reported from various places, I may inform the House that very prompt action was taken in every case and whatever insecticide as well as apparatus was available, was supplied immediately.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is the Government satisfied with the steps to prevent diseases?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Our attention was drawn to a Press report that the Agricultural Research Department of the Government of Bengal was at a loss to know whether the disease to which I am referring was a physiological one or caused by any pest. Is there any report at the disposal of the Government on this subject?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am unable to say.

KARWAR-HUBLI RAILWAY LINE

*191. **Shri R. G. Dubey:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bombay have recommended the construction of Karwar-Hubli Railway line?

(b) Is it a fact that the Karnatak Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies are demanding the construction of this line?

(c) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes.

(c) An out-agency has been opened at Karwar with Hubli as the serving railway station to meet the present traffic needs of the area. Before further action is taken Government would like to watch the working of the out-agency for some time.

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know what are the governing considerations in fixing up the priority in undertaking new railway lines?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We had certain principles on the basis of which priority was given before. But, with the new Five Year Plan, of course, we have to draw up our programmes in consultation with the Planning Commission, now, because we will have to give priority to those Railway lines to which the Planning Commission attaches greater importance. Suppose there is a new mine to be developed or a new factory opened. Railway lines will have to be provided for these places first.

Shri R. G. Dubey: Is it not a fact that the present arrangement in Hubli district is not able to cope with the growing volume of traffic in that region?

Shri L. B. Shastri: As I have said just now, we will have to await the report of the working of the out-agency.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether, when new lines are constructed, Government will lay them as broad gauge?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It certainly depends on the circumstances whether we should have broad gauge or metre gauge.

Shri Bogawat: What is the length of the Karwar-Hubli line?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The hon. Member should know it better than myself.

Shri Bogawat: I do not know; therefore, I am asking.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Mr. Nanadas.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether new Railway lines are constructed only on the recommendation of the State Governments?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The State Governments are certainly consulted and, of course, due weight is given to their opinion.