

intimately connected with the union for which he stands—the unions are having talks with the main union. That is my information.

Shri Namblar: One more question.

Mr. Speaker: I won't allow any more questions. Let us go to the next question.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES INQUIRY COMMITTEE

*457. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Prices Inquiry Committee has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, whether a copy thereof will be laid on the Table; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to implement its recommendations?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Ten copies of the Report have been placed in the Library of Lok Sabha.

(c) The recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted by the Government of India and have also been forwarded to State Governments for implementation.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if it is a fact that on account of present defects regarding the selection of centres where data is collected, valid conclusions cannot be drawn regarding the trends in prices on the basis of the available data?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is a fact, Sir. I am not prepared to admit the deficiency in the same words as my hon. friend has put in, but the situation is not satisfactory and improvement is necessary.

THEFT IN TRAINS

*458. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a goods train was held up between Wazirganj and Jamuawan railway stations on the South Bihar

Section in the first fortnight of October, 1954;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of bags were removed by the miscreants;

(c) for how long this train was detained; and

(d) the action taken against the miscreants?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The Government are not aware of any such hold-up.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if the attention of the Government was drawn just one month back to the fact that a big hold-up had taken place and that the train was detained for hours and that looting was going on for hours and there was no intervention by anybody?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We are not aware of any such hold-up.

INDIA-CHINA TRADE AGREEMENT

*462. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice which will be exported to China from India, under the recent India-China Trade Agreement; and

(b) whether all the rice will be exported during the year 1954-55?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). The recent India-China Trade Agreement envisages the grant by the two Governments of facilities for the import and export of certain commodities including rice, subject to the Laws and Regulations of the two countries for the time being in force. There is no undertaking on the part of the Government of India to supply any specific quantity of rice to China.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what price is to be paid by China for the purchase of Indian rice if they do, and how does it compare with the market price?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have an agreement for the export of 2,500 tons to Tibet on China's account and it has been agreed to supply to China at the rate of £50 15s. per ton.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if that rice is supplied to China on a barter basis and, if so, what other commodities we are going to get in exchange for rice?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is not on a barter basis. China has agreed to pay in terms of cash and they have opened an account with the Imperial Bank at Calcutta.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if this is the first consignment of rice that is to be exported, and if so, what is the total amount of rice that Government propose to export during this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We are prepared to export some rice, even to the extent of 2 to 3 lakh tons, because we have got enough of rice, but the trouble is that no country is prepared to purchase. We are entering the market a little bit late and all the importing countries have already entered into agreement with the exporting countries. We are late this year, but from next year onwards I think we will be able to export a sufficient quantity.

RAILWAY CONNECTIONS WITH KASHMIR

*465. **Shri Keshavalengar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any progress has been made with regard to the linking of the Kashmir State with the rest of India by railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): It is proposed to carry out surveys for extending the line from Madhopur to

Lakhanpur in the first instance and later to Kathua.

Shri Keshavalengar: Has the Government any proposals to connect Jammu and Srinagar?

Shri Alagesan: That will come up, if at all it comes, much later. We have already sanctioned the construction of Pathankot-Madhopur line. The idea is to take it from Madhopur to Lakhanpur and then to Kathua.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the distance between Madhopur and Lakhanpur?

Shri Alagesan: The distance is not much but a river intervenes, and we have to construct a bridge over the river, and so it will take a lot of time to survey.

THEFT IN P. & T. DIRECTORATE, ORISSA

*467. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a theft in the store room of the office of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs Orissa, took place in the month of September 1954;

(b) if so, the value of property involved; and

(c) whether the culprits have been traced and punished?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes, the theft actually took place in the month of August 1954.

(b) Rs. 560 (approximately).

(c) The culprits have been arrested and the case is under trial. Departmental enquiries are also proceeding.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the theft was committed during the day or at night?

Mr. Speaker: I think we better proceed with the next question.