

बारे में कुछ और विशेष कदम उठाये जाने की आवश्यकता है, यदि हां, तो कौनसे कदम उठाने का गवर्नमेंट विचार कर रही है ?

Shri Alagesan: We very well realise that for any foreign tourism to develop in this country, we should have a firm basis of internal travel and internal tourism. I may mention here one of the steps taken by us. There are the popular kisan specials from many parts of India like, Gujrat, Andhra, etc. Parties of kisans running to 400 or so get together and they have been arranging specials at concessional rates. They have been going round the country and seeing various places. This certainly gives them the knowledge of what happens in the country today.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Deputy Minister said that there are thirteen tourist information officers. May I know whether any of them are honorary? May I also know whether the tourist information officer for Travancore-Cochin can do little work as he has no staff to assist him?

Shri Alagesan: There are no honorary officers; they are all paid officers under the Government. I do not think there is any tourist office of the Govt. of India in Travancore-Cochin.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether any arrangement has been made for supplying interpreters to these tourists?

Shri Alagesan: There are certain guides who know other languages also—other than English. Some know French and some tourist information officers are also being recruited who will be serving at the air-ports, etc. and who know languages other than English.

FOODGRAIN DEPOTS IN ANDHRA

*1706. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to arrest the steep rise in prices of food grains in Andhra?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Government have taken following steps to check undue rise in the price of foodgrains :—

(a) Export of rice from the country has been banned.

(b) Sizeable quantities of rice are being sold from Government stocks at suitable intervals by inviting tenders or holding auctions.

(c) Further purchases of rice on Government account from internal markets have been stopped.

(d) Wheat is being released from Central Sales Depots in different parts of the country at a fixed price of Rs. 14 per maund.

The latest indications are that the price of rice has started declining in Andhra.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether Government have taken any steps to bring out hidden stocks?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): We do not think that there is any necessity to take any action of that kind as the stock will come out when the market situation eases.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government is aware that the same state of affairs is also prevailing in the Madras State and the Madras State has already established a committee to go into the matter? May I also know whether similar steps have been taken in Andhra?

Shri A. P. Jain: We will take such steps as are found necessary on the recommendation of the State Government. At present, no such necessity has arisen.

Dr. Rama Rao: Just now the hon. Minister said that there had been a decline in prices. May I know the latest prices known to the Government as compared to prices which prevailed about a month back?

Shri A. P. Jain: The price at Kakinada is Rs. 17-8-0; at Nellore, Rs. 17; at Vijayawada, Rs. 17 and at Guntur, Rs. 16-12-0.

Dr. Rama Rao: He said that the prices are going down. I requested him to give the latest prices as well as the figures about a month back.

Shri A. P. Jain: I thought that he wanted the latest figures. I will give the comparative figures. On 7-4-56 the price at Kakinada was Rs. 19-8-0 and on 14-4-56 it was Rs. 17-8-0. At Nellore on 7-4-56 the price was Rs. 17-8-0 and on 14-4-56 the price was Rs. 17. The respective prices at Vijayawada were Rs. 17 and Rs. 17 and at Guntur Rs. 16-8-0 and Rs. 16-12-0.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: In view of the fact that the Andhra State is surplus in paddy, grains and pulses, may I know the reason for the rise in prices of foodgrains in Andhra?

Shri A. P. Jain: It has already been stated in reply to the main question.

Shri Vallatharas: The traders have stocks with them and are acquiring stocks in the course of the business and on a particular day suited to them, they withhold the stocks and do not give these stocks for being purchased by others. Has Government taken any steps to see which of these major traders have committed a default by withholding stocks and not offering them for purchase? Has Government seen that because of this misuse of their position, the prices had risen suddenly and could not be controlled?

Shri A. P. Jain: We know that the traders are very often trying to be funny and sometimes, quite dishonest. There are various ways of dealing with that. We are dealing with them by the release of stocks.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I ask whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to purchase paddy stocks and keep them in store and whether, in Andhra, there are any Government-owned storage facilities?

Shri A. P. Jain: We are not purchasing paddy or rice in the internal market because the prices are already a little too high. So far as Andhra is concerned, I may say that there is such a facility.

JAUNDICE

***1708. Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who died of jaundice in the capital during the last epidemic;

(b) whether Government have considered the matter of giving compensation to the dependants of such victims; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The total number of deaths recorded up to 31st March 1956 is 86.

(b) and (c). No such proposal has been considered by the Government of India.

Shri Kamath: May I know whether mortality figure given by the Deputy Minister relates to persons who were hospitalised in various Delhi hospitals or includes those victims of jaundice outside hospitals also?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: It is all-inclusive.

Shri Kamath: How did Government manage to obtain the particulars relating to victims of jaundice who died outside the hospitals? What is the agency?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Birth and death figures are all given to the local authorities.

Shri Kamath: I did not hear it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members must hear a little attentively also.

Shri Kamath: I am all attention.

Mr. Speaker: She said that birth and death figures are given in the birth and death registers.

Shri Kamath: Arising out of the answer to parts (b) and (c) of the question, am I to understand that Government has not accepted any liability, direct or vicarious, for the murder of people in the capital by the criminal negligence of their officers?