

these stamps will be treated as the first day, and the clandestine ones will not be regarded as having any philatelic value.

C.A.R.E.

*964. **Shri Rishang Keishing** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the items of relief gifts received by India from Cooperative for American Remittances to Everywhere (CARE) ;

(b) the value of the relief gifts received during the past five years in terms of money ; and

(c) how and to whom these relief gifts have been distributed ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh) : (a) Standard Food Packages, cotton packages, books, food-grains, foodstuffs, drugs and medicines, multivitamin tablets, hospital equipment and supplies and agricultural implements.

(b) The Government of India have no information about the money value of the gifts.

(c) Under the terms of the relevant agreements with the Government of India, these relief gifts have to be distributed free by the CARE throughout the country for the benefit of the poor and needy persons irrespective of their race, caste or creed.

Shri Rishang Keishing : May I know whether Government propose to channelise all the foreign gifts of this kind through Government itself or Government-recognised agencies ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : There is under consideration a proposal to see that as much of these gifts as possible should be channelised through Government departments.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty : May I know how much of these gifts have been distributed through the Congress committees, how much through the Bharat Sewak Samaj and how much through the Red Cross Society ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : None of these gifts have been distributed through the Congress committees. I do not know about the Bharat Sewak Samaj. But I do not think that any of these gifts have been distributed through the Bharat Sewak Samaj either.

श्रीमती कमलेश्वरिणी शाह : क्या मैं जान सकती हूँ कि दूध वगैरह के जो यह गिफ्ट्स हैं, यह गरीब बच्चों में भी बाँटे गये हैं ?

श्री अ० प्र० जैन : यह गरीबों के ही बच्चों को बाँटे जाते हैं और बिला किसी इन्तयाज के बाँटे जाते हैं कि वे किस जाति के हैं ।

Shri Rishang Keishing : May I know whether Government have received any complaint regarding the manner of distribution of these gifts ?

Shri A. P. Jain : Yes, sometimes there are complaints.

Shri L. N. Mishra : May I know whether it is a fact that in some places these gifts received from other countries are distributed through the agency of the Bharat Sewak Samaj and in some other places through Government agencies ? Are Government aware that a list of the children getting these gifts is maintained, and mostly, only those children who belong to the backward classes, poorer classes, and the flood-stricken people are given these doles and gifts ?

Shri A. P. Jain : So far as the distribution through the Government agencies is concerned, the description given by the hon. Member is substantially correct. Full records are maintained, and proper distribution is being done.

Barasat-Basirhat Line

*966. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) at what stage is the construction of the broad-gauge railway line in lieu of the ex-Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway ; and

(b) by what date is the work proposed to be completed ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) and (b). The field work of Preliminary Engineering and Traffic Surveys has been completed. Engineering report and estimate have been prepared by the Eastern Railway Administration and are under verification of the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer of that Railway. The Traffic report is yet to be finalised. It is too early to say when the work will be completed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty : May I request that Q. No. 984 connected with the same subject may also be answered along with this ?

Mr. Speaker : Is the Minister willing to answer it ?

Shri Alagesan : Yes.