

Shri Sadhan Gupta: Am I to understand that the long queues were due to the propaganda carried on during the elections?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The hon. Minister has agreed that there has been a rise in the price of rice. As yet, there has been no decline in the price in spite of the measures enumerated by the hon. Minister. What other measures will be taken to bring down the prices at least to the level of prices which prevailed at this time last year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I have already read out the measures taken by the Government. In October the food articles index No. was 411; in November it was 413. Then it came down to 392. There is a little rise now and we expect it to come down.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Deputy-Minister, I want to know the maximum and minimum amount paid as aid to the Government stockists. What are the conditions attached to such aid?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That question may better be put to the Finance Ministry; they are the people who deal with it.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know the specific reasons for the shortage in Calcutta? It is very unusual.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Last month was the leanest period in the wheat year. Now, the wheat crop has come in.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know how the present prices of rice compare with the prices that prevailed in June last year? Are the prices the same as June last year when they are usually at the highest?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Last time, at the time of the harvest the prices were very low. The prices went up after the stocks passed on to the merchants. Thereby the agriculturists were the losers. This year the prices

have been so arranged that the agriculturists would not be the losers. Just at the time of the harvest, the prices are stabilised and even after some time the prices do not go up.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: I asked for a comparison of the prices with the prices in June last year.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I am prepared to give the index number for the information of the hon. Member. In June last year, the index No. for rice was 552; now it is 562.

Shri Heda: Sir, I would request you to allow Question No. 18.

An Hon. Member: Also Question No. 25.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any more questions. Hon. Members are not present here and they do not even care to authorise any other Member to put the question. I have already allowed enough.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ramagundam-Nizamabad Rail Link

*18. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 560 on the 28th November, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the Railway Board have since completed examination of the Traffic Survey Report of Ramagundam-Nizamabad Rail Link;

(b) if so, what decision has been arrived at; and

(c) when the construction of this rail link will be taken up?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): (a) The Traffic Survey Report has not yet been received in Railway Board's Office.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.