

should re-sell it to the merchants; if they do so, we have only to pity them, because that rice is meant for their consumption. If they re-sell, that means they get some profit. It is all right if they get some profit, but we have to appeal to them that they must not re-sell it in that manner.

Shri Gidwani: Have Government investigated the reasons for the prices going up?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There are various national as well as international reasons. It is not in India only that the prices have gone up. In Pakistan, the prices are twice those that obtain in India. If it is Rs. .18 per maund in India it is Rs. 35 to 40 per maund in Pakistan. In China, though the wage level is the same as in India, the price of rice is higher than in India; while it costs As. 14 a seer in China, it costs only As. 9 per seer in India.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister has said that fair price shops are being opened or have been opened in industrial towns. Is the Minister aware that in Andhra Pradesh in no major industrial centre has a single fair price shop been opened except in Hyderabad and Secunderabad City?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: For us, 'industrial towns' means big cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur, Ahmedabad and such like places. If there are such industrial towns in Andhra Pradesh and if the Andhra Government has not opened fair price shops there, we will write to them to see that such shops are opened.

Shipping Targets

*60. **Shri Matthen:** Will the Ministry of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional funds are likely to be made available for implementing the programme of acquisition of ships under the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Transport have already availed

themselves fully of all the funds provided in the Second Plan and are in urgent need of further funds for the acquisition of additional ships to reach the target; and

(c) by what time the Government expect, at this rate to reach the goal of two million tons of shipping set by the Reconstruction Policy Committee for shipping 10 years ago?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Owing to the difficult ways and means position at present, it has not been possible for Govt. to provide additional funds required for implementing the target for Indian Shipping set in the Second Five Year Plan. The question will, however, be reviewed after a year in the light of the then existing conditions.

(b) Yes; commitments have been made practically to the full extent of the funds provided under the Second Plan.

(c) It is not possible to give any indication in this regard at present.

Shri Matthen: The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that the full allotments have been made use of for purchasing ships. What is the amount allotted and what is the tonnage we will be able to acquire thereby?

Shri Alagesan: The amount set apart for purchase of ships in the Second Plan was Rs. 37 crores plus Rs. 8 crores carry-over from the First Plan. It comes to Rs. 45 crores. It was expected to acquire a net tonnage of 3 lakhs. Now prices having gone up, even with the spending of the full amount, it may not be possible to purchase the full tonnage. There will be a shortfall.

Shri Matthen: I want a clear answer as to what is the tonnage we will be able to purchase, not a vague answer. In other words, what is the shortfall?

Shri Alagesan: With this amount, we will be able to acquire only 1,80,000 tons (roughly). That is, the shortfall will be 1,20,000 tons.

Shri Matthen: What about replacement? Am I correct in assuming that including replacement of 90,000 tons the shortfall will be about 2,20,000 tons?

Shri Alagesan: If replacement is taken into account, the shortfall is likely to be more; but I cannot be precise about it.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram): ...will perhaps be 2 lakh tons.

Shri Joachim Alva: In reply to a question put by me to the Minister of Finance during the last Budget debate regarding assistance from the World Bank for inland transport and aerial transport, the hon. Minister said—I speak subject to correction—that funds would be available. May I know whether the Transport Ministry have drawn up any plan by which they could utilise the funds that might be made available from the World Bank?

Shri Alagesan: As it is, it is due to the difficult ways and means position that we have not been able to go ahead, as I said in the answer itself. The question will be reviewed after a year.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In answer to part (c), the hon. Minister said that it is not possible to fix any date. Considering the fact that this modest target was fixed ten years ago, may I enquire how it is that Government are not in a position to tell the House as to when will they be in a position to achieve this target?

Shri Alagesan: This question has been debated in this House several times and all the difficulties have been indicated. Just now, the difficulty is that of foreign exchange and finance.

Shri Matthen: When in 1947, the target of 2.2 million tons was fixed, we were contemplating to cover 50 per cent of the overseas trade and the whole of the coastal trade. In view of the economic development of India after independence, do Government think that this tonnage will be ade-

quate to provide for carriage of 50 per cent of the overseas trade and the whole of the coastal trade?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It shall not be adequate, but, as the Deputy Minister has already stated, the difficulty is of foreign exchange and ways and means position. As soon as that position improves, we will try to expedite and acquire more tonnage.

Tuticorin Express Accident

*62. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken on the report of the judicial enquiry into the Tuticorin Express accident on the 23rd November, 1956 at Ariyalur;

(b) whether any enquiry has been or is being held into the alleged burning of the women's compartment of the Express train without trying to extricate it from the debris; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Jagjivan Ram):

(a) Government have accepted the finding about the cause of the accident. The various matters brought out in the report as also the recommendations made for minimising the incidence of similar accidents in future, are however being examined carefully and necessary action will be taken at an early date.

(b) and (c). A thorough investigation has been made. The allegation is unfounded.

Shri Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (a) of the question, do Government expect to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Report after examination has been completed?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Report has already been published.

Shri Kamath: Will it be laid on the Table?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think it necessary; it is already in the Library of the House.