

I have explained, we have made arrangements which are not subject to what Pakistan will do. On our own if we are satisfied that it should be done, then we make the payment, and adjustments of course, is subject to the claims being verified. There would be an account between us and Pakistan, and as a result of that, we have been able to do that. Therefore, rather than giving any interim payment, etc., we do it on our own and in many cases we give the full claim.

**Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** May I know that by taking these indemnity bonds we accept the claims as a general policy?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** It has been a general policy in respect of claims registered by the original prescribed dates.

**Shri Anwar Harvani:** The hon Minister has pointed out that certain formalities have to be fulfilled before the payment is made. May I know how much time is taken for going through the formalities?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The special procedure for transfer is this. The transferee post office was to send to the transferring post office the list in quadruplicate giving complete particulars of the accounts and certificates required to be transferred for verification, etc. On the receipt of copies of accounts and certificates, it will be treated as transferred. We cannot lay down any time; it has got to be verified and two Governments are interested in it. Naturally it takes time. You cannot lay down that within a particular time it has to be done. Therefore, in order to circumvent that, we have issued the other instructions, viz., on our own by the indemnity bond, etc. We take a reasonable risk in doing that, but it has got to be taken, because the money has to be paid.

### Purchase of Rice from Burma

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Shri Radha Ramani:  
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
 Shri Raghunah Singh:  
 Shri Sadhan Gupta:  
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:  
 Shri Panigrahi:  
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
 Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:  
 Shri N. R. Munisamy:  
 Shri Damar:  
 \*51. } Shri Anwar:  
 Shri Jaipal Singh:  
 Pandit Munishwar Dutt  
 Upadhyay:  
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
 Shrimati Ila Falchowdhuri:  
 Shri Wodeyar:  
 Shri Bhanja Deo:  
 Shri Anrobinho Ghosal:  
 Shri M. B. Thakore:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether terms of purchase of Burmese rice have been settled by the Government;

(b) if so, the nature of settlement reached;

(c) whether any delegation went to Burma to negotiate in this respect;

(d) if so, the number of officials who went there, and

(e) the expenditure incurred in this regard?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jais):** (a) and (b) A contract was signed on the 13th June, 1959 with the Government of Burma for the purchase of 3.5 lakh tons of rice in 1959. Of this quantity 2.5 lakh tons are to be raw rice at £33 per ton F.O.B. and 1 lakh tons are to be full boiled rice at £33-12-0 per ton F.O.B.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Three.

(e) About Rs. 8,100.

**Shri Madha Ramna:** There had been a contract with the Burma Government about the purchase of rice in some previous year. How does this contract now entered into differ in terms from the previous one?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It does not differ in terms; it is part of the long-term agreement entered in May, 1956. As a condition of that agreement, Burma had to supply 2 million tons of rice over a period of 5 years. The prices of rice to be supplied for 1959 and 1960 were not fixed at that time when the agreement was entered into. It was for the purpose of fixing the prices that the delegation went there.

**Shri Sadham Gupta:** May I know whether other countries have been approached for the purchase of rice at better prices and if so, what are the names of those countries?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** No other countries have been approached.

**Shri C. D. Pande:** Is it a fact that in previous years when India purchased rice from Burma, it was at a certain price, that Burma sold rice at cheaper rates to the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union sold it to India at the same price? May I know whether it is a fact that there is discrepancy between the prices offered by India and Russia?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I think my hon. friend is referring to the transaction we entered into sometime in 1957. That related only to a small quantity. Russia purchased some quantity and for the very same price it was transferred to us, because Russia did not want that rice. With regard to the prices, I do not think there was much difference.

**Shrimati Madha Ahmed:** It is reported that similar rice deals were settled with Pakistan and Ceylon at the rate of £32 per ton; then, may I know the reasons why our Government are paying a higher price than what other countries have paid?

**Shri A. P. Jahn:** I doubt the correctness of the statement that Pakistan has paid at £32. In fact, we have not paid higher price than any other country.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is the price of this rice adjusted in instalments of heavy loans which Burma owes to India, as these instalments fall due, or is the price paid in cash?

**Shri A. P. Jahn:** It is paid in cash.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस रेट पर हमने वह चावल लिया है, उसी चावल का रेट इस बक्स रंगून में क्या है और क्या यह बात ठीक है कि उसी चावल का रेट वहाँ पांच घाना कम है?

श्री ज० प्र० जीन: हमने जिस रेट के ऊपर यह चावल लिया है, उस रेट का मुकाबला उन रेट्स से किया गया है जो कि इटरनेशनल मार्केट में है और बीसा मैंने कहा है कि हमने जो चावल के दाम दिए हैं, वे दाम किसी दूसरे मुल्क को बेचे गए चावल के दाम से ज्यादा नहीं हैं।

**Shri Amar:** May I know how much quantity was received by us from Burma out of our total order placed with them?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In 1956, the contract was to supply 3 lakhs tons. We have received 2,81,235 tons. In 1957 the contract was for 5 lakhs tons and we got the entire quantity. In 1956, out of 5 lakhs tons contracted, we have received only 3,72,543 tons.

**Shri N. K. Munikamy:** May I know whether at any stage of the negotiations, the delegation suggested that the price of rice has to be adjusted against the dues which Burma owes to us?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** That too formed part of the negotiations carried on long before, but it was not negotiated as part of the agreement.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Is the Government aware that China this year has had a very huge surplus of rice and if so, why no approach was made to China to see if rice could be got at cheaper price?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** China offered some rice, but it was at a price higher than the price paid to Burma

**Shri Joachim Alva:** When this is a Government to Government transaction, may I know whether any private party entered into this transaction or whether any brokerage was paid to any private party or was there any claim by any private party?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** No private party entered into this transaction. No private party had anything to do with it.

**Shri Damani:** In these purchases, may I know whether any negotiations for barter deal were made?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** There is no question of barter deal. This was an agreement entered into several years ago. Under that agreement, certain quantities have to be imported every year for five years. So the import this year is part of the old agreement.

#### Travel Agents Association of India

\*52. **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee of the Travel Agents Association of India at its session held at Mussoorie during the last week of April, 1959 urged the Government to reconsider their decision on the reduction of the basic allowance for Indians visiting foreign countries; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have acceded to their demand?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) and (b). Yes. The Travel Agents Association at its session held at Mussoorie during the last week of April passed a Resolution requesting the Government to reconsider their decision regarding the suspension of basic travelling allowance. Since the Resolution was received from the Association by special request only on the 1st August, 1959 it has not been possible for Government to consider it.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** May I know how far this decision has affected the visits of Indians to foreign countries?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** There has been a perceptible decline in the number of Indians visiting abroad.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Is it a fact that Air India International have also requested the Government of India to reconsider their decision regarding the basic travelling allowance to Indians?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That demand has been made. I am not quite aware whether Air India International also has done it.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mather:** Is the Government aware that this step has only resulted in imaginary saving in foreign exchange inasmuch as the unclassified returns to this country have come down from Rs 48 crores in 1956 to Rs 37 crores and this is a direct effect of this particular measure adopted by the Government of India?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot exactly give the figures, but we have received some reports like that.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Is it a fact that as an indirect consequence of reduction in basic travelling allowance, whereas the number of tourists has increased by several thousands, the tourist foreign exchange earnings have not increased in the same proportion?