

survey reports at Haldia and, if so, what is the reason for the delay—these reports have been submitted long ago—in the World Bank giving its opinion?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think the hon. Member is referring to the hydraulic studies which have been undertaken, completed and sent to the World Bank. He may be glad to know that even the World Bank is satisfied so far as the hydraulic aspect of the proposed port is concerned.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the foreign exchange component of the cost of this project has so far been calculated?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already said that it will be Rs. 14 crores out of the estimated cost of about Rs. 30 crores.

Shri S. C. Samanta: In reply to part (a) of the question, the hon. Minister said, "No". Is it not a fact that in the newspapers there appeared reports of some difficulties to the effect that there will be silting in the estuaries of the River Hooghly; if so, what is being done? There was the recommendation of the World Bank Committee to acquire a dredger for it. May I know whether this has been ordered or not?

Shri Raj Bahadur: An order has been placed for an estuarian dredger. So far as the difficulty about siltation is concerned, the studies made have established that 28 ft. draught will be available throughout the year and a draught of 30 ft. for 346 days in a year; even 35 ft. draught will be available for 39 days in the year. After some dredging, it is hoped, we may be assured of a draught of 35 ft. for 365 days round the year.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the national importance of this port, may I know whether the Government have assured itself of effective steps to bring this into operation as early as possible?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is exactly our objective and this has been included in the Third Plan; some provision has been made for that.

Rice

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Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
 Shri R. G. Dubey:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Umanath:
 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Shri Maheswar Naik:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 Shri Mohan Swarup:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Dimen Bhattacharya:
 Shrimati Renuka Ray:
 *332. } Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Balkrishna Wasnik:
 Shri D. D. Mantri:
 Shri Heda:
 Shri Tridib Kumar
 Chaudhuri:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shri Bade:
 Shri Kachhavalaya:
 Shri B. K. Das:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri Kajrolkar:

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

(a) the latest position as on the 1st October, 1963 in respect of the stocks, availability and the price of rice in different parts of the country;

(b) whether any fair price shops were opened during the last quarter;

(c) if so, how many and in which States; and

(d) whether any representations have been received from rice mills in Assam and other States complaining of shortages in rice availability?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Infor-

mation about stocks and availability of rice in different parts of the country for the period ending 30th September is not available. Government do not collect any figures of total stocks in the country but from the fortnightly returns of licensed wholesalers information relating to their stocks becomes available but these would not represent the total stocks in various parts of the country. Since March 1963, rice price recorded a continuous rise and was rather high on 1st October.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the number of fair price shops for sale of rice opened in different States during the quarter ending October, 1963, is as under:

STATEMENT

State	No of fair price shops opened
1. Assam	810
2. Bihar	747
3. Gujarat	715
4. Madhya Pradesh	243
5. Madras	46
6. Maharashtra	882
7. Punjab	65
8. West Bengal	499
9. Delhi	33
10. Himachal Pradesh	2
11. Manipur	11
12. Tripura	76
13. Goa	30
14. Pondicherry	45

(d) Representations to this effect were received only from the Association of rice mills in Assam.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know, besides opening of the fair price shops, what other steps Government have taken to bring down the price of rice and also to make rice available to consumers easily?

Mr. Speaker: Was not all that given yesterday?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Yes, Sir. Many of

the steps have been narrated on the floor of the House. Besides large stocks being given to fair price shops—and the current year's quota was much higher than the previous year—we are also having regulatory measures on the trade. All these steps are being taken.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that domestic procurement of rice has fallen far short of the expectations and as a result the fair price shops are not getting their supplies?

Shri Shinde: It is true that due to shortfall of production during the last year, the procurement also was less compared to the expectations. But the supplies were made to the fair price shops as and when asked for by the State Governments and the Centre also came to the aid of the State Governments.

Shri Warior: Is it a fact that the prices in Madras State had increased and hence the export from Madras to Kerala; and the prices have gone up in Kerala and the Minister has asked for some more quota to bring down the prices?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Recently, there has been some spurt in prices in Kerala because of the fact that there has been a reduction in the quantity that was being moved from Andhra Pradesh and Madras. We are looking into it. That has also been partly due to the recent difficulties in those two exporting States. I think the situation would soon improve.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the cases of some hoarders and profiteers have been brought to the notice of the Ministry and, if so, from which States and what action has been taken against them?

Shri A. M. Thomas: This question was raised before also and we have given the number of cases taken under the Defence of India Rules. In

fact, so many persons were arrested also for profiteering and other activities.

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know notice of the Government that though there are huge stocks in the country, many times there are no stocks in the local towns? If there are stocks, they are not released for days and days and if they are released, they are released to wrong agency. There is no proper supervision and sometimes even the so-called fair price shops go into the black market. The whole machinery is functioning in a bad way.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I think that perhaps the hon. Member has in mind the state of affairs in Bijapur. In fact, he has frequently drawn my attention to that, and whenever he has drawn my attention to it, I have rushed stocks to that area, and distribution has been resumed satisfactorily.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that while in the urban areas the fair price shops are giving relief, in the rural areas rice is selling at a very high price and, if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government to control the advances from the various banks to the grain merchants and hoarders?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, these fair price shops are not confined to urban areas only, but they have been started in the rural areas also. But it is true that more intensive attention is given to the industrial areas because the draw may be less from the rural areas and in fact that will indirectly help the rural areas too.

Shri D. J. Naik: Dehra Dun Basmati rice is being given to the rural areas where it is not being consumed, and that rice goes to the black-market. I would like to know whether Dehra Dun rice would be allot-

ted to the urban areas or to the rural areas, and why it is being allotted to the rural areas.

Shri A. M. Thomas: So far as Dehra Dun rice is concerned, only a small quantity of it is being procured by the State Governments. There have been representations from Members of Parliament also to the effect that Dehra Dun rice may not be procured. What we generally require is the common variety of rice. Of course superior variety of rice is also being procured, but there has not been any complaint as far as the point raised by the hon. Member is concerned.

Shri Tyagi: Dehra Dun rice is much too superior.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: In fact, this is the discussion that we are having today also. So, why should so many Members be anxious to put questions?

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Considering the fact that Bengal and Bihar are the prominent rice-consuming areas, how can the hon. Minister justify 747 fair price shops only in Bihar and 499 fair price shops only in Bengal? Here, an assurance was given to me by the hon. Minister that at least 5,000 fair price shops would be opened in Bengal.

Shri A. M. Thomas: As far as West Bengal is concerned, there is no question of any inadequacy of the number of fair price shops; I do not think that their number is small; in fact, there are as many as 11,000 odd fair price shops functioning there.

As far as Bihar is concerned, we have left it to the State Government to open as many fair price shops as possible, and we have assured them that adequate supplies of wheat will be made to Bihar. As far as Bihar is concerned, there is one redeeming feature namely that they can either switch on to wheat or switch on to rice as the case may be.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I would not allow opportunities to those Members who have spoken on this discussion yesterday, to put questions today. I am going to allow opportunities only to others.

Shri Shivananjappa: From the statement it appears that there are no fair price shops both in Mysore and in U.P. May I know the reasons for the same?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The prices in Mysore are lower than what prevailed last year. So, why should we have fair price shops there?

श्री स. जू. पाण्डेय : श्री मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि इस बात की सूचना नहीं है कि देश में कितना चावल है, और इसके आंकड़े मालूम नहीं हैं कि उसकी क्या कीमत है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बात का पता लगाने की कोशिश की है कि कितना चावल देश में उत्पन्न हुआ है और कितना बाजार में आया ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: If my hon. friend has carefull followed the answer, he would have been able to find that it is not possible to find the stocks in the country with the traders, both small traders as well as the large or big traders and also with the producers. But we know the stocks with the wholesale traders who have been licensed; under the terms of the licence, they are also enjoined to submit returns to us as to the stocks etc. That is why I have stated in the main answer that it is not possible to indicate the entire stock position, but as far as the wholesale dealers' stocks are concerned, we have got the figures.

Shri Firodia: Is it a fact that in the fair price shops, rice is sold only to those people who buy certain quantities of wheat along with rice?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes. In West Bengal, for example, we have said

that one kg. of rice and 2 kg. of wheat would be sold together.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know why in spite of the repeated statements about the adequacy of shops and also the rice stocks, rice is not available even in these fair price shops in the country? May I know whether Government have examined the position?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I think that in the statements made here, as far as wheat is concerned, we have said that we have got enough stocks to supply any quantity.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I am asking about rice and not about wheat.

Shri A. M. Thomas: As far as rice is concerned, I had made it clear even in the course of my speech yesterday that as against a shortage of so much, the stock with us was such and such a quantity. We supply rice to the various State Governments, according to the rice stock position with us, and according to the assessment of the particular situation.

Delhi Telephone Services.

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*333. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring the three outlying townships of Bahadurgarh, Narela and Ballabgarh under Delhi Telephone scheme; and

(b) if so, the extent to which this scheme will prove helpful to these towns and when it will take effect?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes. The existing exchanges were transferred to the control of the General Manager, Delhi in October, 1963.