

Rice Purchased from U.S.A.

110. { **Shri A. V. Raghavan:**
Shri Pottekkatt:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1731, on the 10th September, 1963 and state:

(a) the amount of loss suffered by the Government of India so far by purchasing rice from the U.S.A. under the P.L. 480 agreement; and

(b) the steps taken to procure rice at the rates prevailing in India?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) An amount of Rs. 17.88 crores was borne by the Government of India from 1956-57 to 1962-63 as subsidy on the rice imported from U.S.A. under the P.L. 480 agreement.

(b) The rice is purchased by India in the U.S.A. in the open market through tenders at the lowest prices. We have to buy the rice at the prices prevailing in the selling country.

Transport of Iron Ore

111. { **Shri Maheswar Naik:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway administration has already completed survey operations regarding railway lines for transport of iron ores;

(b) which specific areas have been so surveyed;

(c) whether cost structure of the construction of railway lines in those areas has been worked out; and

(d) when actual construction is expected to begin and in which of the areas?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (d). The Railway lines for the transport of iron ore are surveyed as and when the need for constructing the individual lines is felt. The following lines have been under construction during the recent years:

Line	Mileage	Cost of construction of the line <hr/> (Rs. in crores)
(i) Sambalpur-Titilagarh BG (opened to goods traffic on 15-4-63).	113	14.58
(ii) Bimlagarh-Kiriburu B.G. (opened to goods traffic on 16-4-63).	26	6.07
(iii) Kottavalasa-Bailadilla BG (Line under construction).	270	55.32

Surveys for the following new lines have been sanctioned recently:

(i) Mangalore-Hassan Final Location Survey (MG) 128 Miles.		
(ii) Rail line connecting Tomka Daiteri and Navagarh areas with Paradip Port. (BG) 250 miles approx.	Preliminary Engineering ring and Traffic surveys.	
(iii) Sini-Pendrasali and Gomharia-Asanboni avoiding lines (BG) 50 miles.	Do.	

The costs of construction of these new lines will be known only after the surveys have been completed and the reports examined.

Mail for Port Blair

112. { **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**
Shri Maheswar Naik:

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

(a) whether complaints have been received from any News Agent at

Port Blair registered packets addressed to News Agents they are delivered to them five to ten days after arrival of sea mails; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to effect quick delivery?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes. A complaint from one News Agent only, viz., Mrs. Kiran Kumari, was received.

(b) Owing to infrequent sailings of ships to Port Blair, a large volume of mail is received at one and the same time. Unregistered articles of the letter mail including newspaper packets, magazines etc. are, however, delivered on the day following the date of receipt by Port Blair H.O., while registered articles containing newspapers, magazines etc. are normally delivered within 3 to 4 days of their receipt. Orders have since been issued, for closing separate bags with registered newspapers and magazines only and arranging their prompt delivery to the addressees.

Freedom from Hunger

113. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Maheswar Naik:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the contributions which have been made to the Freedom from Hunger International Fund by the voluntary organisations in India and by the Indian Government ever since the inception of the Fund?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): So far as the Government is aware, no voluntary organisation in India has made any contribution to the International Fund for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. A contribution of Rs.2,00,000 was made by the Government of India to the Fund during 1960-61. The Government have also donated

one lakh special commemorative postage stamps of 15 n.p. valued at Rs.15,000 which were issued on 21st March, 1963.

पंचायती राज

११४. श्री बाल्मीकी : क्या सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अभी कौन-कौन से राज्य ऐसे हैं जहाँ पंचायती राज की स्थापना नहीं हुई है ; और

(ख) देरी के क्या कारण हैं ?

सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ब० सु० मूर्ति) : (क) और (ख). केरल, जम्मू तथा काश्मीर, मध्य प्रदेश, नागालैंड और पश्चिमी बंगाल में अभी पंचायती राज लागू नहीं किया गया है। बिहार में बिहार पंचायत समिति और जिला परिषद अधिनियम १९६१ केवल राज्य के चार राजस्व प्रभागों के मुख्यालयों वाले जिलों में हाल ही में लागू किया गया है।

राज्यवार व्योरा नीचे दिया गया है :—

बिहार : इन चार जिलों में पंचायत समितियों और जिला परिषदों के चुनाव जनवरी १९६४ तक कर दिये जाने हैं और निर्वाचित संस्थायों २६-१-१९६४ से काम करना प्रारम्भ कर देंगी।

जम्मू तथा काश्मीर : राज्य सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त की गयी लोकतन्त्रीय विकेन्द्रीकरण समिति राज्य में पंचायत राज लागू करने के प्रश्न पर विचार कर रही है। उम्मीद है कि समिति दिसम्बर, १९६३ तक अपना काम पूरा कर देगी।

केरल : पंचायती राज विधान का प्रा-रूप तैयार कर लिया गया है और आशा है कि विधेयक शीघ्र ही राज्य की विधान सभा में पेश किया जायेगा।