

that the subsidiary food will be available in the market?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I think the hon. Members know that subsidiary food is not a new expression; it has been in vogue all along; it means: food other than cereals such as: poultry, fish, meat, fruits and other things. That is why we are talking about it. Wheat contains protein. Our diet in general lacks protein very much and it is a dangerous point which has got to be taken notice of.

**Dr. Gaitonde:** In view of the fact that various departments do the work done by one department previously, may I know whether proper use is being made of the scientific research conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research as regards changing the food habits and balanced diet?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** So far as scientific knowledge is concerned, there is always an attempt to co-ordinate it and make the maximum use of it.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या सरकार को पता है कि आजकल विभिन्न स्टेटों में आम के दरख्तों, जामुन के दरख्तों, कटहल के दरख्तों, अर्थात् हरे दरख्तों को काटा जा रहा है जिसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि सब्सी-डियरी फूड कम होता है। इसके लिये सरकार क्या उपाय सोच रही है कि उनका काटना बन्द हो जाये ?

**श्री स० का० पाटिल :** यह बात तो ठीक है कि इस प्रकार के पेड़ नहीं काटने चाहिये। और आम और जामुन के पेड़ तो बिलकुल ही नहीं काटने चाहिये अगर कहीं पर यह होता है तो यह भयानक बात है। यह स्थिति नहीं होनी चाहिये। सरकार कोशिश करेगी कि ऐसा न हो।

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** What expenditure is proposed to be incurred on this scheme and what portion of it will go in payment of salaries to the staff?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** As has been stated by my senior colleague, only a small beginning has been made on

pilot projects basis. Rs. 2.5 crores have been provided in the Plan for the schemes. I cannot give the break-up of this expenditure, what expenditure is on staff and what expenditure on others.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it for experimentation?..... (Interruptions).

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Consistent with the vastness of our country, Rs. 2.5 crores in the period of five years is not much. However, it is not on an experimental basis.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** What about this year?

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** In order to make up the deficiency of protein in the Indian diet, we understand that the Government have set up some research centres in the country who are probing the possibility of extracting protein from leaves for human consumption. May I know how far that research work has progressed?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In fact that is being undertaken and the results obtained are also being utilised by these mobile extension units.

#### Foodgrain Prices

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Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Subodh Harsda:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri Tridib Kumar

Chaudhuri:

Shri Warrior:  
Shri Vasudevan Nair:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri Daji:

\*152. Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
Shri Hem Raj:

Dr. L. M. Singhvi:  
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:  
Shri Sarjee Pandey:  
Shri Dighe:

Shri Baswant:

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:  
Shrimati Jyotima Chauda:

Shri J. B. S. Bist:  
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:  
 Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:  
 Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:

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

(a) the present position of prices of important foodgrains prevailing in different States;

(b) whether they have shown the tendency of rising and falling in recent months; and

(c) whether there is any necessity of adopting suitable measures to keep in check the rising prices, if any?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde):** (a) and (b). A Statement indicating the average wholesale prices of important cereals prevailing during the week ending 10th August 1963 in the different States and the trend of those prices in each State, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1481/63.]

(c) Yes, Sir, such measures have been and are being taken.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** From the statement it appears that the average wholesale price of rice varies from about Rs. 57 per quintal in Madhya Pradesh to Rs. 81 per quintal in West Bengal. I would like to know what the highest price at which rice was sold during these periods.

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** We have given an eight page note which is placed on the Table of the House, giving details with regard to the price levels in the various States. With regard to West Bengal, in which the highest price has been indicated as mentioned by the hon. Member, I may say that now there is a slight decline in West Bengal.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** In regard to part (c) of the question, I would like to know what are the precise measures that have so far been adopted in this regard.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The measures have been mentioned more than once on the floor of the House. We have opened as many as 53,000 fair price shops throughout the length and breadth of this country through which wheat and rice are being distributed. We are also taking measures in the matter of advances to traders, etc. There is a credit squeeze; we have also instructed the various State Governments to utilise the provisions of the Defence of India Act in case hoarding and profiteering are noticed.

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** The wholesale price quoted in West Bengal is Rs. 81.67 per quintal in regard to rice. If that is so, may I know what was the price at the consumer level at that time, and again, what was the price of rice per quintal at the time when the price of rice showed an upward trend till the first week of July?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The highest price in West Bengal was noticed in the second week of July; subsequently the prices have been steady and now there is a slight decline by about two pints.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I find from the statement that in West Bengal the price of rice showed a decline till the end of December, 1962 and thereafter recorded a rise till the beginning of July, 1963. May I know whether it is not a fact that this is the period which corresponds exactly with the coming in of the new crop into the market when generally the prices fall? How is it that precisely at that time the price of rice rose, and may I know whether it was not due to profiteering, etc?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is very well known that May, June, July and August are the lean months. Of course there is a short term crop in West Bengal. (Interruption). There was also its effect on the market. It is a small quantity that is being produced there in West Bengal compared to the overall production. I may mention

for the benefit of the House the recent trends in the matter of prices. It is well known that despite less production—we have in fact less of production to the extent of two million tons in the matter of rice—the price this year of cereals declined more than in the corresponding period up to March, 1963. It is only from April onwards that the price of rice—but not the price of wheat, jowar or other coarse grains—is showing a rise. Even for rice, as is well known this is the lean season. It may be noted that the rise was particularly noticed in Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. But the extent of the rise, which could have been worse considering the shortfall in supplies, was checked by an increase in fair price shops and distribution through them, movement of rice from Nepal to West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh to West Bengal and Maharashtra. I may also mention... (*Interruption*) I do not think this excitement will produce more rice.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Answers should be short.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** This is not what I asked for.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It may also be noted, as I have already indicated, that the steady trend and this decline in these particular months has been a special feature of this year. Both in Orissa and West Bengal prices do show a decrease now. Of course, the prices have increased in April and May and now it is steady. In some areas in West Bengal as well as in Orissa where the prices have gone up unduly decline is noticed and it is a very healthy sign (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. How am I to go on.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** May I know whether the complaint that rice is not available in many fair price shops in West Bengal has reached the Government; if so, how do they propose to solve this problem? On the one hand they say that

there is no rice and at the same time they say that they are opening fair price shops. Are the fair price shops supplying wheat only or are they supplying rice also?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil):** There is no contradiction in anything. We have never said that we have no rice. We have enough rice to supply to fair price shops. Only during the last one or two years as many as 5000 fair price shops have been opened and I have told the Chief Minister of West Bengal that if the situation gets difficult even if he opens another 5000 more fair price shops in West Bengal alone I am prepared to supply rice. There is no question of rice being not available for supply.

**Shri Daji:** The hon. Minister said that they have issued instructions that action under the D.I. Rules may be taken against hoarders. I want to know actually in how many cases action under D.I.R. has been taken to unearth rice hoarders?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Very often we read about it in the papers. We do not get these figures. If I had known that the hon. Member would be asking this question I would have got that information for him. Hundreds of businessmen are arrested when the prices that have been fixed by the Government are not adhered to and they take advantage of the scarcity.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** I find from the statement that the wholesale price of rice in Assam for the week ending 10th August, 1963 was Rs. 60.47 per quintal. May I know whether the Government is aware that before 5th August, 1963 the price of rice per maund in Cachar was more than Rs. 40? I also want to know from the Government whether they have.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Only one question can be put.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** Sir, I am coming from the border State and I must know.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** About that State the hon. Member can ask one question.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** I want to know whether the Government has taken any measure regarding hoarding, blackmarketing and smuggling of rice to Pakistan from Cachar and Goalpara border?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The hon. Lady Member wrote to me a letter indicating the difficult situation in Cachar. In fact, immediately on receipt of that letter I contacted the State Government and supplies were rushed. There was difficulty for a few days, I admit, but that was not because of lack of supplies from the Centre but because of movement difficulties within that State. There was some difficulty in the district of Cachar, but the requirements were immediately met.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** According to Government sources the wholesale price index as well as the retail price index have shown that foodgrains were the worst hit in the rise in prices. How do Government propose to help the situation especially when even the fair price shops have not been able to show their impact on the rise in prices?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The fair price shops are not there to show their impact on the rise in prices. The fair price shops are opened so that people can take advantage of them so far as market prices are concerned. They are taken advantage of by crores of people in this country, especially the poorer sections. The urban people and the illiterate and poor have to be protected; otherwise, they will not get any supply at all in the lean months. Then, the production was short by two million tons last year, so far as the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are concerned. So far as the other parts of India are concerned, there is no rise in prices.

**श्री रामेश्वरानन्द :** किसान के घर में जो अन्न वा गुड़ आदि होता है वह मौसम

पर बहुत सस्ता बिकता है। लेकिन बाद में बहुत महंगा बिकता है जैसे मौसम पर गुड़ का भाव दस बारह रुपये मन था पर आज वह ४० रुपये के भाव से बिक रहा है। यही हाल गेहूं आदि का है। मैं सारे देश की बात करता हूँ। इसके लिए सरकार क्या यत्न कर रही है ?

**श्री स० का० पाटिल :** स्वामी जी को मालूम है कि जो किसान अनाज पैदा करता है वह अनाज लेने के लिए मारकेट में नहीं जाता, वह तो दूसरी चीजें लेने के लिए जाता है।

**श्री रामेश्वरानन्द :** किसान का माल दस बारह रुपये भाव से बिका और आज उसे ४० रुपये के भाव पर बेचा जा रहा है।

**Some Hon. Members rose—**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. Hon. Members cannot go on putting questions like that. They have to catch the eye of the Speaker.

**श्री रामेश्वरानन्द :** यह गलत उत्तर दिया जा रहा है। इतना अनाज किसान के पास नहीं होता कि बारहों महीने खा सकता हो। आज उसे बाजार से लना पड़ रहा है।

**Shri Koya:** In the statement it is stated that the prices in Kerala were steady. As a matter of fact, there were rises in price of rice in various cities in Kerala, because wagons were not available for movement of rice from Andhra to Kerala. What special steps have been taken by Government to ensure that there is regular supply of wagons to carry rice from Andhra to Kerala so that there may not be any scarcity or rise in prices?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Kerala depends on Andhra for a major part of its supply of rice. We try to supply them as many wagons as we possibly can. As far as the price level is concerned, in Kerala this year it is less than that of last year. In fact, the producers are complaining that because of the larger supply they do not get a remunerative price.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister, who has drawn claps from the other side, why 66 nP. rice, which is available elsewhere is not available in the fair price shops in Bengal.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I did not know that rice is not available.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** It is not.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** So far as Bengal is concerned, whatever is being asked for by the Chief Minister is promptly complied with. The situation has very much improved after the Nepal rice has begun to come, and I am sure that in the next few days all other rice that is coming from Burma, America and other countries will promptly be diverted to the State of the hon. Member.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Now rice is selling there at Rs. 40 a maund.

**श्री गुलशन :** मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह फरमाया है कि किसान का जो जिन्स का भाव है वह बाजार में नहीं जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसान का भनाज प्रेन मारकेट में बिकता है या किसी दफ्तर में बिकता है ?

**श्री स० का० पाटिल :** भनाज तो किसान खुद पैदा करता है। इसलिए वह उसे लेने बाजार में नहीं जाता। वह तो और चीजें लेने जाता है। उसके पास जो ज्यादा भनाज होता है उसको वह बेचता है। लेकिन हो सकता है कि शायद कुछ के पास कम होता हो और उनको बाजार से खरीदना पड़ता हो। ऐसे लोगों को फेयर प्राइस शाप्स पर जाना चाहिए जिससे उनको ज्यादा दाम न देना पड़े।

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question. Shrimati Barkataki.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Sir, on a point of order. Sir, you have stated only just now that you would, first of all, exhaust the list and then call the names of other hon. Members.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Not the whole list.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Sir, that is what you have stated. My name was fairly in the top of the list. I stood up several times but I was not called.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am trying to give opportunities to all.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Sir, as a protest I am not going to put any question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have given fifteen minutes for this question. Does the House want me to give more time to this question? I am trying to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible.

**Shri Hem Barua:** But you said that you will follow the list and exhaust it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. I am trying to give opportunities to as many hon. Members as possible. First, I call those hon. Members who have not asked any questions. Then I have to give opportunities to members outside the list. We have already taken fifteen minutes on this question.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I did not get an opportunity even though my name was fairly on the top of the list.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am sorry, I could not help it. Next question.

#### Railway Accidents Committee

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- \*153. { **Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:**  
**Shri Basumatari:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**  
**Shri Bishanchander Seth:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri Bhakt Darshan:**  
**Shri Ravindra Varma:**  
**Shri Morarka:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Accidents Committee has submitted its complete report;