

**Rotting of Rice at Seerampur Station**

2204. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU:  
SHRI B. K. MODAK:  
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* dated the 13th July, 1968 that a huge quantity of rice lying in the godown in the Seerampur old Railway Station yard has become unfit for human consumption due to the negligence of the Food Department;

(b) if so, the total quantity of rice that became unfit for human consumption;

(c) whether Government have investigated into the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 7656 bags of raw rice received from Andhra Pradesh by the Food Corporation at Seerampur in open wagons covered with tarpaulins about 2420 bags was found to have been affected by rain *en-rota*. These bags were promptly opened up and the drying and salvaging process is in progress. The extent of damage will be known only after this process is completed. The F.C.I., however, expects to find the major portion of the affected rice fit for human consumption.

(c) to (e). The Food Corporation have lodged a claim for compensation with the Railways who will investigate the circumstances under which the damage occurred and take steps to prevent recurrence.

**Representation from employees of Super Bazar, New Delhi**

2205. SHRI M. L. SONDHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the employees of the Super Bazar, New Delhi regarding their grievances against the management in the recent past;

(b) whether the grievances have been enquired into; and

(c) if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No regular enquiry was held as it was not considered necessary. However, the grievances and demands of the employees were looked into.

(c) The grievances put forth by workers' union in their representation submitted to the Delhi Administration related to the following aspects:

- (i) payment of a living wage;
- (ii) top heavy management of super bazar and payment of vastly increased salaries to the employees taken on deputation;
- (iii) anti-labour policy of the super bazar authorities, namely, not recognising the workers' union; and
- (iv) constitution of a Consumers' Committee to guide the working of the super bazar.

As regards the first grievance in connection with the payment of living wage, it may be stated that the wage structure was formulated by