

in time for building up buffer stock of the order of 25,000 MT before the onset of the ensuing monsoon. It is, however, reported that there is a stock of 1,400 MT boiled rice in transit which is likely to reach Tripura shortly. Earlier, the State had received an intimation regarding diversion of two BG rakes of boiled rice bound for Tripura by the Senior Regional Manager (FCI) based at Gauhati.

(ix) SETTING UP OF CARDAMOM BOARD IN KERALA

SHRI K. KUNHAMBUR (Cannanore). Kerala is in the forefront in respect of cardamom. Cardamom produced in Kerala is of the best quality and it enjoys a pre-eminent position in the world market. Moreover, Kerala's share in the overall production of cardamom is the biggest. The House might recall that, when there was a proposal to pool cardamom of different varieties having different qualities, the Government of Kerala and the cardamom growers had opposed it on the ground that such a step would result in our losing the world market. The opposition to pooling was also based on the fact that Kerala was producing the best quality cardamom. This being the case, one would naturally expect that the Cardamom Corporation would be set up in Kerala. But, according to press reports, a decision has now been taken to set up the Corporation in Karnataka. While I have all sympathies for the Karnataka farmers, a decision of this nature will do injustice to Kerala. Both in respect of quantity and quality, Kerala occupies the first position with regard to cardamom production. The Cardamom Corporation with its headquarters in Kerala will be able to serve the interests of cardamom growers better than anywhere else.

Therefore, I would request the Government to reconsider its present decision and set up the Cardamom Corporation in Kerala.

12.40 hrs.

PENSIONS' (AMENDMENT) BILL --
Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up the further consideration of the Pensions' (Amendment) Bill. Shri Samar Mukherjee.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: (Howrah): I do not want to speak much. While supporting the Bill I want the Government to consider the problems of the pensioners who have made several representations and had to go into agitations for getting remedies. One thing that they want—this Bill does not cover, is that the pension should be more liberalised as in today's conditions the cost of living is very high and with the pension they get they cannot make both ends meet.

The first thing that they want is that though there has been some liberalisation in the rules passed in 1979, but they have excluded the old pensioners. So they want that both the old and new pensioners should get the advantage of the liberalisation rule.

There are some other demands also. The main point I am reading from a letter which was sent to me. The main point at issue is that whatever benefits have been given to the pensioners should be given to all of them irrespective of their dates of retirement. Some of the Central Government Pensioners' Organisations, Eastern Zone held a convention in which again they drew the attention of the Government that pending change of the pension structure, the existing disparity and discrimination between pension of one section of pensioners and another should be immediately removed by granting pension to all pensioners on the common basis of the latest formula irrespective of their dates of retirement. All pensioners, therefore, who retired from service prior to 1st April 1979 be given pension at the rate of 50 per cent of their pay worked out on the basis of the said formula together with other dues as applicable in the case