

government prepared to re-organise the Central Fisheries Corporation because the price of fish is a serious problem particularly in West Bengal. The Recommendations of the Public Undertakings Committee are there. This is my first question.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The recommendation of the Committee to revive the Corporation was turned down by the Janata Government, it was not accepted. Later on during the Lok Dal regime, orders to stay the winding up of this corporation were issued. The Government is now considering the matter.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: If it is revived the question of absorption elsewhere does not arise. We want that it should be revived. In case it is not revived at least the employees should not be thrown out of their jobs. Till they are finally absorbed this should not be wound up. Can I expect the Minister to consider this point?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: As many as 71 of the employees have already been absorbed. Government are thinking of finding places for the employees also. In the meantime the and when a decision is taken, every care will be taken to see that these employees get employment somewhere in the government undertakings.

Allotment of Rice to Kerala

*7. **SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) quantity of rice allotted to Kerala during the last one year, month-wise; and

(b) the demand therefor received from Kerala during the same period?

कृषि तथा ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव) : (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा के पटल पर रखा जाता है।

विवरण

केरल की 1979 के दौरान केन्द्रीय मूल स चावल की मासिक मांग और आपूर्ति

मास	मांगी गई मात्रा	आवृद्धि की गई मात्रा
1	2	3
जनवरी	1,35,000	1,35,000
फरवरी	1,35,000	1,35,000
मार्च	1,35,000	1,35,000
अप्रैल	1,35,000	1,35,000
मई	1,35,000	1,35,000
जून	1,35,000	1,35,000
जुलाई	1,35,000	1,35,000
अगस्त	1,35,000	1,35,000
सितम्बर	1,35,000	1,35,000
अक्तूबर	1,35,000	1,35,000
नवम्बर	1,35,000	1,35,000
दिसम्बर	1,35,000	1,35,000

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to his notice that rice supplied to Kerala is damaged and decayed and if so what steps he has taken to see that good rice is supplied to Kerala.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: It has not come to our notice that rice supplied to Kerala was damaged.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Has any complaint been received from Kerala that the rice supplied is damaged? Will he make enquiries?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: There was a complaint about the par-boiled rice supplied to Kerala taking a longer time in cooking. We stopped the supply of that quality of rice. If

the people of Kerala do not like that quality of par-boiled rice, we will not force this upon Kerala.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: May I know whether the Government of Kerala have shown any preference for any quality of rice?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The Kerala Government has shown preference for par boiled rice to be issued to people but the quality of rice supplied in the past was not found satisfactory. We have agreed to improve the quality of the rice. We have stopped millers from producing that quality of rice. We will improve the quality of rice and supply rice to Kerala to their satisfaction.

Shortage of Diesel

*8 **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that diesel shortage is prevailing in the country;

(b) if so, the extent thereof indicating the annual requirement and availability for the current year; and

(c) the reasons therefor and steps taken by Government to remove their shortage?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is not possible to indicate the exact shortage of diesel, as it has been caused by a number of factors which are difficult to quantify with precision. These factors include a growth in its demand arising out of steep increase in the movement of goods by road, power shortages and the drought conditions in certain parts of the country. Again, on account of the disturbed conditions in Assam, the three refineries in that State and the Barauni refinery in Bihar have been shut-down, entailing a loss in production of diesel to the extent of about 5,000 tonnes per day. This develop-

ment has seriously affected the availability of HSD in the areas fed by these refineries and which cannot be easily fed from other sources. Arrangements are being made to meet the demand for diesel, to the extent possible by imports, subject to certain unavoidable restraints in movement by road and rail to areas traditionally served by the North-Eastern refineries and pipelines in Assam, Bihar and U.P.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: It is clear from the statement of Minister that there is acute shortage of diesel. The hon. Minister did not reply to my questions regarding the quantum of diesel necessary for production and distribution. But it is a fact that 70 per cent of the diesel transport has stopped plying on the roads, particularly in North Bengal, North Bihar and Eastern U.P. It is a fact that agriculturists who had diesel for their pump sets and tractors, they are not getting diesel now. It is also a fact that in the tea garden areas in the North Bengal and North Eastern Area, the tea garden factories are going to be closed down. It is also a fact that the entire area—North Eastern Region, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been threatened due to shortage of diesel. So, in the circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister very categorically whether he will re-allot 25 per cent of the diesel quota which was curtailed during the time of the previous Government i.e. on 5th January, 1960 in the case of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh? Will the hon. Minister arrange special quota for West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to meet the present crisis of the diesel there?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as this cut is concerned, 20 to 25 per cent cut was introduced by the previous Government on 5-1-1960 i.e. much before we took over. Now it is being said that the present Government has made this cut, which is absolutely a false propaganda.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will he re-allot that?