

[Shri Alagesan]

replies to certain memoranda received from Members in connection with Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1954-55. [Placed in Library. See No. 186/54]

PETITIONS RE: GRIEVANCES OF DISPLACED PERSONS

Secretary: Under Rule 178 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, I have to report that four petitions, as per statement laid on the Table, have been received relating to the grievances of displaced persons.

STATEMENT

*Petitions relating to grievances of
displaced persons*

Number of signatories	District or town	State	Number of petitions
(i) 1	Agra	U. P.	26
(ii) 1	Bhavnagar	Saurashtra	27
(iii) 90	Jullunder	Punjab	28
(iv) 1	Bharatpur	Rajasthan	29

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SURPLUS STOCK OF RICE IN ORISSA

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): Under Rule 215, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"(1) Orissa has declared a surplus of 1½ lakhs tons of rice. As the State Government has a storage capacity for 45,000 tons only, the bulk of this rice is lying in the open.

(2) This accumulation of stock in excess of storage capacity has been caused by shortage of wagons and refusal of the Government of West Bengal to lift rice owing to

surplus stock with that Government.

(3) Orissa Government has stressed the urgency of clearing the surplus as early as possible to save it from spoilage.

(4) The Union Minister of Food and Agriculture is understood to have assured the Government of Orissa that necessary arrangements would be made shortly for removing rice from the State, but nothing has been done so far and there is a real risk that stocks of rice may perish."

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kidwai, the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture. I beg to make the statement.

The Orissa Government have so far declared a surplus of about 260,000 tons of rice for 1954 and this entire quantity has since been allotted partly to Central reserve and partly to deficit States. Out of this, about 123,000 tons have already moved leaving a balance of about 137,000 tons.

It is true that the West Bengal Government suddenly surrendered a part of their quota and this has delayed to some extent the clearance of rice from Orissa. The present accumulation of stock in Orissa is, however, also due to heavy increase in production and rapid procurement of rice during the earlier part of the year. During the period from 1st January to 18th March, 1954. Orissa procured about 180,000 tons of rice as against 138,000 tons in 1953 and a mere 68,000 tons in 1952:

Owing to record procurement of rice during the first three months of the year, the rice mills in the State have not been able to cope with the heavy arrivals of paddy with the result that paddy forms a considerable proportion of stocks of rice now lying in Orissa. In order to meet the situation, we have agreed to take over substantial quantities of paddy for Central reserve.