

[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.

Movement to Madras and Travancore-Cochin is also taking place against their existing quotas and railways are supplying wagons according to the demand placed on them by the Orissa Government.

Rice is going into the Central reserve depots in Calcutta and Hyderabad through simultaneous movement in the directions, and to Calcutta both by rail and sea from Chandbali port. The movement has started and will be in full swing within a week.

Shri Barman (North Bengal-Reserved-Sch. Castes) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No questions can be asked now.

COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with the motion that the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942 be referred to Select Committee.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): Sir, before we proceed, I would like to mention that yesterday it was said that the Special Marriage Bill will be taken up first that being an important Bill, whereas in to-day's order paper, priority has been given to Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill. Why not we have the Special Marriage Bill first? It is always good to proceed to coffee after marriage.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I leave it to the hon. Members to consider this matter. If the House wants to have the Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill afterwards, I have no objection. The time allotted for the Special Marriage Bill is 8 hours and therefore, if we have Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill first, the Special Marriage Bill will go for the rest of the Session.

Shri Punnoose: We can take up all the time and keep two hours in reserve for the Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That means not all the Session. I leave it to the House to decide. It appears the Chairman had asked to inform the House, but nobody seems to have informed. It is only a reference to the Select Committee. I agree that the hon. Members are always ready with the Special Marriage Bill. But, when do they want the Coffee Bill?

Shri Punnoose: After the Special Marriage Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, shall we be interrupted in the Marriage Bill with this Coffee Bill?

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Therefore, I will give an opportunity for Members to study. They have come prepared with another Bill and it is no good thrusting upon them this Bill today. Shall we have it as the first thing tomorrow? It is only a general discussion on the Special Marriage Bill and we may deal with it for the rest of the Session.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Sir, some of the Members after going through the Order paper thought that the Coffee Bill will be taken up now, whereas you are agreeing to take up Special Marriage Bill now. It is better to take coffee first.

Shri Barrow (Nominated-Anglo-Indians): Moreover, the hon. Law Minister is not present and therefore we will have to wait till he comes.

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): Sir, may I say a word? The Special Marriage Bill cannot be disposed of within the time allotted, namely, two days. On the other hand, if we take and dispose of this Coffee Bill, we can continue discussions clause by clause as soon as the House meets after this Session. Therefore, it will be more advantageous to the House to take up the Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Bill first and the Special Marriage Bill later.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister may start. The other hon. Minister is not here and therefore, we will