

suggested modification of the interest charges in respect of loans advanced for the Chambal project. Their request is under examination.

Production of Food from Sea Weeds

706. Shri P. K. Deo: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken for the production of food from the 'ALGAE' sea weeds;

(b) if not, whether Government have any proposal to undertake any research work in this regard; and

(c) what will be the protein, carbohydrate and vitamin contents of this food?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Preliminary work has been carried out at Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Mandapam and further research is in progress.

(c) Sea weeds generally are inadequate sources of protein as it rarely exceeds 15 per cent. of total weight even on dry basis. Carbohydrates constitute 50 to 60 per cent. Most of the vitamins are present in sea-weeds. Percentage of B 12 & C Vitamins in some of the sea-weeds is very high.

Dry fruit Research Station in Lahaul Valley

707. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the horticulture section of the Agriculture Department has set up a dry fruit research station at Keylong in Lahaul Valley of Punjab to study the possibility of growing dry fruits;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is practically very little rain owing to the elevation of Lahaul Valley over 10,000 feet and the irrigation water is available only in summer from the melting snows;

(c) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Central Government for the development of dry fruits industry in this region and for irrigation purposes; and

(d) the results achieved so far in this regard?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A progeny orchard has been set up at Keylong in Lahaul Valley of Punjab where a collection of dry fruit plant material is being raised for further trials.

(b) Yes. There is very little rainfall in Lahaul Valley but irrigation water is available from 'kooahls' which are fed from the melting of snow during summer.

(c) There is a scheme for the establishment of a dry fruit research station at Keylong to be entirely financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The scheme has been sanctioned by the I.C.A.R. for a period of five years at a total cost of Rs. 84,180 and a sum of Rs. 19,810 has been provided to start this scheme during 1959-60.

(d) Since the research Scheme is being started this year, it is too early to report any results.

12.06 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT'

PRICE OF RICE IN WEST BENGAL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received several notices of adjournment motions. The first one is from Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, about the "soaring prices of rice and the non-availability of rice on three to four days a week in most of the ration shops in West Bengal and the consequent misery and hardship caused to the people".

I learn that some discussion is going to be held in the House, before long.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Yes; we have agreed to discuss the food situation in general, with particular reference to

West Bengal, on a notice given by about 13 or 14 Members of the House, including the hon. lady Member who has given notice of this adjournment motion, and we have agreed to discuss the question on the 21st.

Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah): 21st is too late.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Bansihat): One of the reasons why I have given notice of this adjournment motion is that every day the prices are soaring and the figures which have been given to us by the Government do not reflect the actual state of affairs. We have received telegrams from Midnapore saying that the price of rice is Rs. 32. The statement of Government is that the price of Midnapore is about Rs. 25. Every day it is soaring. Also, the fact which he has stated on the floor of the House that now the ration shops are giving rice in good quantities, is not correct. It is not a fact. People are not able to get rice. I have got reports from Midnapore, Karnahari in Burdwan, from Hooghly and from the 24 Parganas. In all these areas the ration shops for C and D holders are not giving rice at all to them, and even those who are getting rice are not getting it during the last three or four days of the week. The position is desperate. Therefore we want an early discussion.

Some Hon Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as this motion is concerned, I have heard Shrimati Renu Chakravartty. I have yet to decide whether I should give my consent or not. If it were a discussion, certainly I would allow other Members to speak.

Shri Muhammed Elias: I want to make clear only one or two things.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If any clarifications are needed, I am sorry they are not to be had just now.

Shri Muhammed Elias: This is the information which I have received.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. We have been told that a regular discussion is going to take place on the 21st. The only objection raised is that that date is far off; that it is a distant date. The hon. Lady Member said that because the prices are going up every day, therefore there should be an early discussion in the House. But I think her object would be served when it is brought to the notice of the Government that prices are rising and they will take care of it as much as possible. The prices will not be brought down simply by discussion. Therefore, I do not think I am called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The Government knows about it. It is a question of policy, a question of de-control of prices. Could we have an assurance from the hon. Minister that it would be taken up earlier than the 21st? 21st is very far off; today is only the 12th. Could we have it within the next three or four days?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be difficult. 15th and 16th are holidays and on 17th and 19th, we have got the discussion on Kerala already fixed. Therefore, it would not be possible. So far as this adjournment motion is concerned, I am sorry I cannot give my consent.

BATON-CHARGING BY CEYLONESE POLICY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker:

There is another adjournment motion by Shri Hem Barua:

"The serious situation arising out of the Ceylonese Policy baton-charging a group of Malayalees demonstrating against the President's Proclamation on Kerala on the 10th of August, 1959 within the Indian High Commission's precincts at Colombo, resulting in 14 injured, 6 of whom are in a serious condition."

I would request the hon. Member just to inform me whether this is the