

divisions of Chinese troops are stationed in Tibet at present?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not say; I do not know that exactly.

Mr. Speaker: In the circumstances, I do not think it necessary to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ALLEGED CONTAMINATION OF IMPORTED WHEAT

Mr. Speaker: I have received another notice of adjournment motion which is about the "reported news in Ananda Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, dated 12-8-1959 that about 3,000 tons of wheat unloaded in No 8 Jetty at Calcutta has been mixed up with DDT and thus become poisonous and unfit for human consumption. Centre should immediately issue instructions not to distribute this wheat and institute an enquiry immediately in the matter"

I have brought it up here because there has been a similar instance in Cochin which led to poisoning in a mass scale. What is the position?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Kindly allow me to submit a few points.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has already quoted that particular newspaper.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My submission is this; out of the 3,000 tons as reported in the newspaper, 1,108 tons have already been sent and distributed in Calcutta and also sent outside Calcutta. Only 258 tons are now in the store and the news in the newspapers says that 17,000 packets of DDT powder were unloaded in the same jetty and the same godown some days back. I want to know the real truth about the matter which is reported in the newspapers, because, the history of the Food Department of West Bengal is that they can give anything for human consumption.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jais): I have got the full facts. A steamer carrying Gal-lowsy American wheat was shifted

from 25 KPD to 8 jetty, Calcutta, on the 29th July, 1959 and discharged 3,000 tons of wheat at Calcutta jetty till 3rd August, 1959. Before the steamer was berthed at Calcutta jetty, another steamer discharged in the same shed drums of DDT powder on the account of the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals. Some of these drums were still lying in the shed when the wheat discharge commenced. Since the wheat was discharged in bags there was no possibility of any grain getting mixed with the DDT powder. Moreover, the Port Commissioners cleared all the DDT powder as quickly as possible and made the floors clean, but in view of the risk of the spillings getting mixed with the sweepings of the DDT powder, instructions were issued to segregate the sweepings separately. The sweepings, about 200 bags, are still in the shed and any stock found unfit for consumption will be destroyed.

In the news item it was stated that 3,000 tons of wheat got completely mixed up with DDT powder and became unfit for human consumption. That statement is absolutely wrong. No food grain got mixed up with DDT powder except the spillings referred to above.

This morning, 180 tons of wheat are still lying in the godowns, but there was no trace of DDT powder even on the surface of the bags and the stock was found to be completely free from admixture.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the report it is clearly stated that certain senior employees of the Port Commissioner's office went and informed the Food Ministry officials and other people—the Intelligence Department—and no action was taken. The letter is dated the 12th August. I want to know whether the stock has been analyzed properly. If they find that it is fit for human consumption even with the DDT powder, then it is all right! The Minister's statement does not satisfy us. Either they should give us the facts or this news should be contradicted.

Mr. Speaker: 12th August was only yesterday

Shri S. M. Banerjee: That is why I have given notice of an adjournment motion. Otherwise, I would have put only a question.

Shri A. P. Jain: The bags have been tested and they have been found free from any admixture. The question was only about the sweepings which have been kept apart.

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): May I know whether those bags have been sent out?

Mr. Speaker: It is not suspected, the bags have been examined, they do not contain any poisonous matter. What more is to be done? I do not allow this adjournment motion.

12-05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENTS TO MINING LEASES (MODIFICATION OF TERMS) RULES

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, a copy of Notification No GSR 861 dated the 25th July, 1959 making certain further amendments to the Mining Leases (Modification of Terms) Rules 1956 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1519/59]

HYDERABAD KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD (DISSOLUTION) ORDER

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of Section 4 of the Inter-State Corporations Act, 1957, a copy of the Hyderabad Khadi and Village Industries Board (Dissolution) Order, 1959, published in Notification No GSR 878 dated the 27th July, 1959 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1518/59]

AMENDMENT TO CUSTOMS DUTIES DRAWBACK (FIXED RATES) RULES

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of Section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, a copy of Notification No GSR 887 dated the 1st August, 1959, making certain further amendment to the Customs Duties Drawback (Fixed Rates) Rules, 1958 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1520/59]

AMENDMENT TO CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES REFUND (FIXED RATES) RULES

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of Section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 and Section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, a copy of Notification No 888 dated the 1st August 1959 making certain further amendment to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Refund (Fixed Rates) Rules, 1958 [Placed in Library, See No LT-1521/59]

PRICES OF RICE IN WEST BENGAL

Shri B. R. Bhagat: On behalf of Shri A. M. Thomas, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of a corrigendum to the statement showing retail prices of coarse rice in Calcutta and in subdivisions of West Bengal during 1958 and 1959 laid on the Table on the 7th August 1959 [Placed in Library, See No LT 1522/59]

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS

EXCESS APPROPRIATION, 1955-56

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to present a statement of Excess Appropriation in respect of the Budget (General) for 1955-56.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS 1956-57

Shri Morarji Desai: I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1956-57.