

Shri Nagi Reddy (Anantapur) On a point of information, Sir The Business Advisory Committee has recommended, in today's business papers that we have received, certain motions for discussion I would like to know what has happened to the motion for discussion which we had given on the Mathai affair and about which certain papers were laid on the Table of the House Quite a number of us had requested for a discussion on it here

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha. This was not on the agenda of the Business Advisory Committee yesterday, as you are aware

Mr. Speaker This motion relates to the agenda that was disposed of yesterday He wants that the Business Advisory Committee's report may be accepted So far as the other motion is concerned, the motion is still with me I am considering as to what steps ought to be taken in that regard If I admit it, it will come up for discussion

12.00 ½ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FORTY-FIRST REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha) Sir, I beg to move

"That this House agrees with the Forty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th August, 1959"

Mr Speaker The question is

"That this House agrees with the Forty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th August, 1959"

The motion was adopted

12.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE RISE IN FOOD-GRAINS PRICES

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram) Sir, I rise to raise a discussion on the situation arising out of rise in food-grains prices in the country with special reference to West Bengal where levy and price control on rice has been withdrawn

The problem of food at present is very acute and it is exercising everybody's mind It is not so much because of the non-availability of food as the production during the last season was quite adequate as has been disclosed by the Government, which has been due to the efforts of the peasants in the country, but it is because of the high food prices which are not within the reach of the common man Every one of us knows that the price of rice is somewhere near Rs 30 per maund practically in all the big cities in the country Even coarse rice is selling at about Rs 26 to Rs 28 per maund in Delhi. In Bombay, the price is Rs 30 per maund In West Bengal also, the same price prevails Even in paddy producing areas where paddy and rice were procured or purchased by the Government at controlled price—for instance, paddy was procured at Rs 9 per maund and rice at about Rs 16 or in between Rs 16 and 17 per maund—the price of rice at present is somewhere near Rs 25 per maund I am talking only about coarse and medium rice, mostly coarse rice This morning I heard that the price of indigenous wheat is above Rs 30 per maund in Bombay

This indicates that the situation of food in India is not very happy at present despite the fact that we are importing enormous quantities of foodgrains from foreign countries and have purchased also a significant amount of foodgrains this year Why is it so this is the main problem Is it because of the faults of the producer or because of the faults of the consumer or because of our defective