

Allocation of Steel to Punjab

1084. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state the quota of steel allotted to the Punjab State in 1956-57 and the quota which will be allocated for 1957-58?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): In 1956-57, Punjab State was allotted to 57,196 tons of steel. The State's total allotment for the first two quarters of 1957-58 was 22,186 tons.

Hindi Typewriter and Teleprinter

1085. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have effected and accepted a key board for Hindi Typewriter and Teleprinter; and

(b) if so, when the new key board will come into operation on Hindi Teleprinter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) The Government of India have accepted the key board for the Hindi Typewriter as recommended by the Committee set up to evolve a standard key board for the Hindi Typewriter and Teleprinter. The report of the Committee in so far as key board of the Hindi Teleprinter is concerned is still awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

12 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ALARMING FOOD SITUATION IN CHOTA NAGPUR

Mr. Speaker: I have received a notice of an adjournment motion to discuss the alarming food situation created in the Chota Nagpur division of Bihar due to failure of paddy crops and on account of continued drought.

Yesterday, we had a similar adjournment motion regarding Sunderbans and other parts of West Bengal.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): Eastern U.P. and Sunderbans.

Mr. Speaker: There is failure of crops, want of rains and other things. I thought yesterday and I am still considering about the scope of adjournment motions. I have since received a letter addressed to me by a number of hon. Members regarding the scope of adjournment motions and regarding the scope of our jurisdiction in relation to matters relating to food etc. which is primarily the concern of the State Government and how far this Government can be taken to task on an adjournment motion. I will consider it.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): May I submit.....

Mr. Speaker: Yesterday I said that it will be useful for me to come to a conclusion if an explanation also is added to the notice of adjournment motion. Here the explanation is that there has been serious failure of crops for want of irrigation facilities and, therefore, there is no irrigation and there is failure of crops and no food. Therefore, it has come to the Central Government.

What is the Central Government's position so far as this matter is concerned is not clear. All the same, on account of the alarming food situation, as is described here, I thought it fit to bring it before the House. All of us are jointly interested, whatever might be the jurisdiction of the House, as to what the present situation is, and we would like to know it from the hon. Minister.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): I have the latest report dated the 15th August, from the Bihar Government and that report does not mention Chota Nagpur as one of the places affected by scarcity. We have been keeping a record of the rainfall and it is true

that the rainfall in Chota Nagpur has been deficient. But to what extent it has affected the crops is not known to us. From all the reports that we have received from the State Government—while they have mentioned a large number of districts where scarcity conditions prevail—we do not find that Chota Nagpur is one of the places mentioned by them.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: There are different districts in Chota Nagpur. May I submit.....

Shri A. P. Jain: I will read out the names of the districts in which, according to the State Government, scarcity conditions prevail. They are, Patna, Gaya, Sahabad, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Santhal Parganas and Palamau.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Santal Parganas and Palamau are in Chota Nagpur.

An Hon. Member: Only Palamau.

Shri A. P. Jain: Only Palamau is in Chota Nagpur (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There must not be so many voices simultaneously

Shri A. P. Jain: So far as the availability of food is concerned, according to our records, there is nearly 40,000 tons of wheat with Bihar, for distribution to the various places. That is a very substantial quantity and with that quantity the State Government should be able to meet the demands of the various districts. So, I do not know how we come into the picture. If there has been a failure of rainfall, all that we can do is to place wheat at their disposal and we have done it.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I submit, Sir, that the Minister has read the report of the Government of Bihar, that is of the Minister. But Mr. Kedar Pandey, Deputy Minister of Bihar for Irrigation and Power told a Press Conference at the headquarters of Santal Parganas on Tues-

day that a difficult situation might arise in the district if the drought continued. He expressed concern at the food problem facing Santhal Parganas which had been suffering from drought for the last few years.

Mr. Speaker: For the last few years?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I thought it was a few months; but I now understand it is a few years. I was hard of hearing and I wanted to know a second time.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Mr. Jagdish Choubey, General Secretary of the Bihar Pradesh Youth Congress on his return from a tour of the four districts said yesterday that he had found the paddy crop withering in the Chota Nagpur division. He estimated that over 50,000 agricultural labourers had become unemployed as transplantation work had been held up in large areas.'

These are the statements given in the Statesman

Mr. Speaker: The Deputy Minister is superior to all these things. I have heard all. A copy of a news item from the Statesman has also been submitted to me. 'Over 50,000 Agricultural Workers Idle'—'Concern Over Bihar Food Position.' Chota Nagpur is also mentioned there. For want of rains and due to scarcity conditions and want of irrigation facilities which have not been provided for a long time, gradually the situation is deteriorating. There seems to be an accentuation of the situation. And the hon. Minister has said that he is ready and willing, the moment any intimation or request comes from the State Government, to supply more and more. So far as he is concerned, he has placed sufficient stocks at the disposal of the Bihar Government. Let us wait and see if any further steps have to be taken.

In all these matters I would urge upon the hon. Members here to realise that the Central Government

[Mr. Speaker]

does not engage its own agency even for the distribution of food there. It is all done through the agency of the State Government and the State Government must take the initiative in these matters. If they ask for some food or for some other help on account of scarcity conditions, if they are not granted from here, we can certainly urge upon this Government to do that. This must be the line of demarcation as far as possible. Hon. Members would write to their counterparts in the States to take the matter before the State Governments. If the State Governments do not do what they should do, then I do not know what to do. We can certainly take up this matter so far as this Government is concerned. I do not think that so far as this Government is concerned it should take the initiative because it is food, if the State Government fails to take the initiative. I do not feel called upon to give a consent to the adjournment motion.

We proceed to the next item, 'Papers laid on the Table'.

Shri Sihanasan Singh (Gorakhpur): The hon. Minister quoted a statement of the Bihar Government and the hon. Member there read out a statement of the Deputy Minister, just the opposite of it. May we know which is a true statement, whether the statement of the Government of Bihar or that of the Deputy Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must notice that all these reports come from the State Governments from time to time. This is a report which the Minister got on the 15th of August. If, in the meanwhile, any emergency arises, is it not for the Government of Bihar to write to the Centre. Can we get hold of a statement of the Deputy Minister in newspapers and then embark upon an enquiry and condemn the Minister for not having taken steps? What does the Deputy Minister do there, if he has not cared to write to the proper authorities? Do you mean to say that the papermen or any others will supply food.

It is rather strange that they should go to the Press and make a statement. If the situation was really serious they should have written to the Food Minister here. I am exceedingly sorry about the manner in which this matter is attended to. If the State Government informs that there is emergency and more food is necessary from the Centre, I am sure, and I will say from this platform, that all our 500 Members, not only those who come from Bihar but every other Member, will be interested in seeing that as much food is rushed to scarcity areas as is possible within our limited means. I am not called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha (Palamau): Sir, I want to know.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am not going to allow every hon. Member from Bihar to speak on this. I will note down that all Members from Bihar are interested in this matter.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

TERRITORIAL COUNCILS RULES

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 54 of the Territorial Councils Act, 1956, a copy of the Territorial Councils Rules, 1957, published in the Notification No. S.R.O. 2573, dated the 6th August, 1957.

[Placed in Library See No. S-232|57]

NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED UNDER SEA CUSTOMS ACT

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Notifications, under sub-section (4) of section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878:—

- (1) S.R.O. 2577, dated the 8th August, 1957 containing the Customs Duties Drawback (Telecommunication Equipments)