

13-20 hrs

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

## AMENDMENT TO THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (CENTRAL) RULES

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (4) of Section 38 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, a copy of the Notification No GSR 40 dated the 10th January, 1959, making certain further amendment to the Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957 (Placed in Library See No LT-1181/59)

## AMENDMENTS TO THE DISPLACED PERSONS (COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION) RULES

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 40 of the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954, a copy of each of the following Notifications making certain further amendments to the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules 1955 —

- 1 GSR No 1214/R-Amdt XXVIII dated the 20th December 1958
- 2 GSR No 108/R-Amdt XXIX dated the 24th January, 1959 (Placed in Library See No LT-1182/59)

## AMENDMENT TO COTTON TEXTILES (PRODUCTION BY HANDLOOM) CONTROL ORDER

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 a copy of Notification No SO 11 dated the 3rd January, 1959, making certain further amendments to the Cotton Textiles (Production by Handloom) Control Order, 1956 (Placed in Library, See No LT-1183/59)

## AMENDMENT TO RUBBER RULES

Shri Kanungo: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of sec-

tion 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947, a copy of Notification No GSR. 56 dated the 17th January, 1959, making certain further amendment to the Rubber Rules, 1955 (Placed in Library See No LT-1184/59)

## AMENDMENTS TO COFFEE RULES

Shri Kanungo: I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942, a copy of Notification No GSR 1221 dated the 27th December, 1958, making certain further amendments to Coffee Rules, 1955 (Placed in Library See No LT-1185/59)

13.21 hrs

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

## FOOD PRICES

Shri Ram Krishan (Mahendergarh). Under Rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon

"Soaring food prices in the country resulting in distress to people in general"

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain). I would invite attention of the House to the President's address in which the main features of the food situation have been indicated. The prices of foodgrains particularly of wheat and gram, have arisen considerably during the last few months. This has been mainly due to a severe shortfall in production last year owing to failure of monsoon. The production of cereals alone had declined by 44 million tons as compared to the previous year and the total shortfall in the production of all foodgrains including pulses had been of the order of 67 million tons

The shortfall in the production of wheat and gram was particularly pronounced in some of the rabi producing States. The shortfall in certain areas was even more than 50 per cent

Till about the end of March, 1958, the prices of wheat had been steadily declining. The index number of wholesale prices of wheat declined gradually from 97 in February, 1957 to 84 in March, 1958. In April, however, when the failure of rabi crops became evident, the prices started rising. Since then there has been a continuous rise.

The Government have been trying to avoid distress to the people by judiciously utilizing the available resources and taking necessary regulatory measures. Over 36 lakh tons of foodgrains were distributed from Central stocks during 1958 through a network of fair price shops. Even today, over 48,000 fair price shops are functioning in the country. The flour mills in the country have been prohibited from making purchases from the internal markets and they are being supplied wheat from imported stocks thus removing the pressure of their demand from the market. The wheat requirements of important cities such as Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi are being entirely met by the Government. The Central Government has also been able to meet the necessary needs of the State Governments. Suitable restrictions have been imposed on the movement of foodgrains with a view to conserving supplies in particular areas.

Nature has been kind this year and there has been a very good crop of rice. The prices of rice have already recorded a substantial fall. The index number of wholesale prices which had risen to 118.2 in September, 1958 has now already fallen to 91.4.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): May I have the figures for the last harvesting time for rice, and the figures for this year also?

Shri A. P. Jain: 100-101.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: For this year?

Shri A. P. Jain: 91.4. The harvesting of rabi jowar has already started in Bombay and other rabi-jowar producing areas. This will have a salutary effect on the jowar supply position.

The reports coming from the States indicate a good prospect of rabi crops, there should be a substantial improvement in the food situation after the coming harvest. With the stocks at their disposal the Government hope to be able to meet the requirements of the deficit areas during the intervening period.

Shri Bimal Ghose (Barrackpore): The hon. Minister has stated that prices have come down. In regard to rice, though minimum prices have been fixed in certain States, for example, in West Bengal, no rice is available in the market at the minimum price. What is the Government doing about that?

Mr. Speaker: He asks what steps are being taken to provide sufficient grain at the minimum price which, the hon. Minister has said, has been fixed. I do not normally allow any questions on such occasions but one or two questions could be put and answered for clarification and that may be all right. I see a number of hon. Members standing. They may put questions one after another, once for all, and the hon. Minister can then give the answer.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The price of rice which has been quoted is probably the overall average for all India, for Orissa and all other States. As far as my own State of West Bengal is concerned, the price prevailing in the open market per maund

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

of rice, when the rice is available, is between Rs 24 and Rs 25. In comparison with last year, there is no decrease. Again, it is no use comparing the figure for September with that for January, when the harvest is coming in December.

**Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly)** Since the day when the West Bengal Anti-Profitting Act came into force, from 1st January, up till now, all the rice which was in the market on the 31st, has gone out of the market. In the Calcutta industrial area, for the last more than 1½ months, rice is not at all available, let alone the question of the price of rice. So, what steps are the Government going to take to provide rice in the market?

**Shri P. S. Daulta (Jhajjar)** Does the hon. Minister know that the acute shortage of wheat in Punjab is directly due to his refusal to obtain a uniform price for wheat in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab and to get the entire grain-producing area in one single zone, and that the smuggling is due to the difference of Rs 7 on this side of the Jumna which is directly responsible for the miseries of the Punjab?

**Shri Panigrahi (Puri)** On the one hand, while the Government have procured some rice, how is it, on the other hand, that rice and paddy stocks are not available in the market, and how does the Government explain it?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur)** Has it been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that after the Food Minister of Uttar Pradesh made a statement, announcing that the Government would have state trading in food, the grain dealers in Uttar Pradesh have shown absolute non-cooperation with the Government and, if so, what steps have been taken in this regard by the Centre to help the State Government to procure grains

रखना जल्द से जल्द (मथुरा) : मैं बहुत भूमता हूँ और लोग यह कहते हैं कि आजकल बहुत महंगाई है और इस की वजह यह है कि बड़े तज्जारों ने बहुत ज्यादा गल्ला जमा कर रखा है और वह लोग उसे बाजार में नहीं आने देते। मेरा एक सुझाव है कि जिस में इस तरह की शिकायतें ज्यादा न आयें। हमें ऐसा करना चाहिये कि जो हमारे तज्जार हैं, दूकानदार हैं, इन की एक समिति बना दें और उस में मसलन कांग्रेस का एक रिप्रेजेंटेटिव ले लें, एक कम्युनिस्टों का रिप्रेजेंटेटिव ले लें क्योंकि यह बहुत प्रगटा करते हैं। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि मुल्कालिफ लोगों को इकट्ठा करें, उन से यह कहें कि यह कहना कि अनाज जमा कर लिया गया इसलिए महंगाई है, यह तो हवा में बातें करना है। लोग हमें यह बतायें कि गगाघर के पास, यमुना सिंह के पास या किस के पास गल्ला जमा है और अगर वह यह बता दें कि फला के पास गल्ला जमा है तो उन को भी लीजिये, दूकानदारों के नुमाइन्दों को भी लीजिये और बहा डाका डालिये और जा कर देखिये। अगर उस के पास गल्ला हो तो निकाल लीजिये। इस से गल्ले का बहुत घामानी से इन्तजाम हो सकता है।

पंडित राज नारायण त्रिजेश (शिवपुरी)  
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि मध्य प्रदेश में जब उत्पादन कम नहीं रहा और अनाज अच्छी मात्रा में उत्पन्न हुआ तो वहा पर क्यों यह स्थिति इस समय निमित्त हो रही है कि लोगों को खाने के लिये गल्ला नहीं मिल रहा है? क्या हमारे खाद्य मंत्री के पास इस प्रकार की कुछ सूचना आई है कि यदि वहा इस प्रकार के स्थिति का निर्माण हुआ तो क्यों हुआ, और उसे दूर करने के लिये उन्होंने क्या उपाय सोचा?

श्री बजराम सिंह (फिरोजाबाद)  
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सही है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के परिषदी

जिलों में गेहूँ ३० स०, ३१ स० और ३२ स० मन बिक रहा है और मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ विभाजन में जहाँ पर धान की खरीद का भाव ६ स० प्रति मन निश्चित किया गया है गवर्नमेंट के द्वारा, वहाँ ७ स० मन दूकानदार खरीद रहे हैं और गवर्नमेंट की खरीद का कोई इन्तजाम नहीं है जिसके कारण किसान मारे-मारे फिर रहे हैं और उन का धान बहा हम नहीं पा रहे हैं ?

**श्री बालवेयी (बलरामपुर)** लाक-मभा की पिछली बैठक में इस बात की माग की जाती रही है कि गेहूँ की दृष्टि से जो खाद्य क्षेत्र निर्धारित हुए हैं उन का पुनर्गठन किया जाय। जो व्यापार की नेचुरल और रेडिगनल लाइम है उनके अनुसार फुड जोस को मगठित किया जाय लेकिन खाद्य मंत्री महोदय ने इस माग का निरन्तर विरोध किया लेकिन यह देख कर आश्चर्य हुआ कि लोक-मभा की जब बैठक होने जा रही थी तो वेस्टर्न जोन को फिर से रिआर्गेनाइज किया गया है और उस की तोड़ दिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या और भी जोस के मगठन में इस तरह का परिवर्तन किया जाने वाला है जिससे कि धानज के दाम नीचे लाये जा सकें और गेहूँ और चावल का ठीक तरह में वितरण हो सके।

**Shri Tangamani (Madurai)** What is the position in Madras so far as rice production is concerned this year? May I also know whether the fair price shops will be retained and how much of rice would be supplied to Madras from Andhra during the current year?

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur)** May I know whether the Punjab Food Minister met the Union Food Minister and asked for an additional quota of wheat for the State, how much wheat he asked for and how much has been allowed? Then, I find from observations made in Punjab that the number of food depots has got to be increased. Not only that, but the quantity of wheat supplied to Punjab must

also be increased. I know of one district where the number of food depots and the quantity of wheat should be increased at least by 50 per cent. May I know if all these points were put forward by the Punjab Food Minister before the Union Food Minister and also if, in view of the increased needs of Punjab not only in terms of the inhabitants, but also in terms of the food depots in the cities and villages—he has been pleased to increase the quota of wheat to that State?

**Shri Sonavane (Sholapur—Reserv-**  
(d—Sch Castes) The price of wheat in December, 1958 in Delhi was Rs 18 per maund. Now the same wheat is selling at Rs 25 per maund. What are the steps which are being taken to reduce the price and to supply wheat at the previous rate to the Members of Parliament?

**श्री नवल प्रसाद (राज्य दिल्ली—**  
रक्षित—अनुसूचित जातियाँ) अध्यक्ष महोदय, दिल्ली में जहाँ तक गेहूँ का सम्बन्ध है उसके भाव अब कुछ गिर गये हैं और इस समय गेहूँ और चाटा यहाँ पर पर्याप्त मात्रा में मिल रहा है लेकिन चने की जो स्थिति है वह विषमतर होती जा रही है। अभी पिछले दिनों चना यहाँ पर १३ रुपये मन था जोकि आज २३ रुपये प्रति मन है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार चने का दाम गिराने के लिए क्या कर रही है ?

**Dr. Samantsinhar (Bhubaneswar)** The price at which the Centre procures rice from Orissa is not the same. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much paddy and rice will be exported from Orissa to other municipal and industrial areas and also who will bear the transport charges. According to the Orissa Government statement, if it is near the rail-head, the producer would not bear the transport charge, but if it is more than thirty five miles from the rail-head, the transport charge will be deducted from the producer's price.

[Dr Samantsinhar]

There are only 800 miles of railway in Orissa and the places are far away from the rail-head. The price now fixed is not a fair one and even from that, the transport charges will be deducted.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Sir, I hope you will sympathise with me. I have been placed in a very embarrassing position, because such a large number of questions have been asked.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Minister did not even note down what all questions were put. If he finds it difficult, I shall supply a copy of today's proceedings to him; he will look into them and file a statement tomorrow.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I shall try to answer the questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the hon Minister is willing to answer to the best of his ability now, the House may hear it.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** It is possible that I may not be able to carry all the questions in my head, nonetheless, I will try.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Mr. Speaker, your suggestion is better.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** In view of the fact that the hon Minister has not taken down the questions, he may make a statement.

**Shri Vajpayee:** Why not have a two-hour discussion?

**Mr. Speaker:** We will have it later.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** If you want me to answer now, I shall do so. But if you want me to answer them later on, I shall do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall pass on a copy of the proceedings to the hon Minister. He may give an answer leisurely and I will circulate it to the hon Members, instead of his making a statement here. He may anticipate

further questions arising out of that and he may make as complete a statement as possible.

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** Including today's statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** That also will be circulated.

11.37 hrs.

#### DELHI LAND REFORMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Mr. Speaker:** The Business Advisory Committee did not go through this Bill and fix up any time. It is proposed by the Government that three hours may be allotted. I think three hours are enough.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha** (East Khandedh) Till 5 o'clock, we can discuss it.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will conclude it today.

**Shri Radha Raman** (Chandni Chowk) The time should be extended at least to four hours.

**Mr. Speaker:** We shall dispose of it today.

**Shri Radha Raman:** I would like to make one more suggestion, if you approve of it. The two Bills—the Delhi Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill and the Delhi Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill—are inter-connected.

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

**Mr. Speaker:** So, it is not approved of.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."