

and state the further progress made in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): A Central Ravine Reclamation Board has been set up by a Resolution dated the 16th February, 1967. Steps are being taken to convene the first meeting of the Board as early as possible.

Shri Baburao Patel: I have a basic objection. I do not know why my name has been grouped together under this question at all. I have nothing to do with ravines as I am not a dacoit. I have general grievance against your Secretariat. They mutilate the questions, they change the language, and they change even the thoughts with the result that I do not recognise the children of my own brain and they look like bastards to me when they come up on this Question List. You must look into this, a little more closely.

Mr. Speaker: I shall look into that.

Shri Baburao Patel: I have nothing to do with ravines.

Shri S. S. Kothari: I think the Secretariat is doing an excellent job.

श्री नाथू राम अहिरवार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जैसे बिहार में बिहार रिलीफ कमिटी, रामकृष्ण मिशन इन तमाम संस्थाओं द्वारा होटल चलाये जा रहे हैं ऐसे होटल शासकीय तौर पर भी चलाये जा रहे हैं ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): That does not arise out of the main question. The main question relates to ravines.

श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशवाह : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे

कि इस बोर्ड में कौन कौन से सदस्य हूँ और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से भी कोई रेप्रेजेंटेटिव इस बोर्ड में रखा गया है या नहीं ? और इसकी पहली बैठक कब होगी ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The board would be presided over by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture; then the various State Governments in whose States the ravine lands are concentrated, namely UP, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat would be represented; then, there would be some experts such as the Inspector-General of Forests, the Agricultural Commissioner, Soil Conservation experts and so on. The list consists of 15 members in all.

श्री मनुभाई पटेल : गुजरात में ऐसी कितनी जमीन है जो रिक्लेमेशन बोर्ड के नीचे आयेगी और कितनी रिक्लेम करेंगे ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: According to the information available with the Government of India, Gujarat is having 9,88,000 acres of land which falls within the category of ravine lands.

Port Facilities for Export of Steel

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*457. **Shri Sradhakar Supakar:**
Shri N. R. Laskar:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of exporting steel to foreign countries is handicapped on account of inadequate export facilities at all the major ports of India; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken in the matter?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) No Sir. The facilities at the major ports for export of steel are considered adequate, provided the exporters maintain close contact with the port authorities and assist them through advance planning to ensure that

wagons are unloaded quickly, the port areas are not used as dumps and there is direct loading of steel from wagons to ships to the maximum extent possible to reduce berth occupancy.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: May I know the delay in days between the reaching of the wagons and their getting unloaded on the ships?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I am not able to give an exact answer to the question about the length of time taken between the wagons coming to the ports and their getting unloaded on ships.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: Most of the steel plants are located near the Calcutta port. May I know what percentage of this steel goes to the other major ports like Bombay and Madras?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: None of the steel exports are going to Madras, very little to Bombay. The bulk of the exports are going to Visakhapatnam because the Bhilai steel factory deals almost wholly with Visakhapatnam, and so does Rourkela to a very large extent. It is only Durgapur which is using the Calcutta port.

श्री धर्मदत्त गनी दार : क्या बजीर साहब फरमायेंगे उन्होंने फरमाया कि मैं नहीं बता सकता कि रेलवे को कितना बर्त लगना चाहिए घरने और खाली करने में क्या यह इसलिए है कि बजीर महोदय अभी नये नये हैं और उन्होंने अभी देखा नहीं कि कितना बर्त लगता है या इसलिए है कि उनको और किसी जगह ऐसा काम करने का मौका नहीं मिला इसलिए धन्दाजा नहीं कर पाये और अगर नहीं है तो क्या बजीर साहब इसको स्टडी करने की कोशिश करेंगे ताकि हाउस को धावाह कर सकें ?

[क्या وزیر صاحب فرمائینگے]
 انہوں نے فرمایا کہ میں نہیں بتا سکتا کہ ریلوے کو کتنا وقت لگنا چاہئے دھرنے اور خالی کرنے میں کیا وہ اس لئے ہے کہ وزیر مہوڈے ابھی نئے نئے ہیں اور انہوں نے ابھی دیکھا نہیں کہ کتنا وقت لگتا ہے یا اس لئے ہے کہ اس کو اور کسی جگہ ایسا کام کرنے کا موقعہ نہیں ملتا اس لئے اندازہ نہیں کر پاتے اور اگر نہیں ہے تو کیا وزیر صاحب اس کو سٹیڈی کرنے کی کوشش کرینگے تاکہ ہاؤس کو آگاہ کر سکیں] -

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I am most grateful to the hon. Member for the suggestion he has made that I should go and study the time taken between unloading from wagons and loading on ships. Actually the question asked was, what is the time which is being taken. It is related to the delay which has been complained about. In the answer I gave I pointed out that because of lack of advance planning, the steel comes to the ports before the ships are there. It has got to be dumped in the ports. There is not enough space for dumping. It remains in the wagons. Then railways impose restrictions on the wagons.

That is why we are suggesting that if there was more co-ordination and more advance planning between steel exports and the arrival of the ships and less tendency to use the ports as dumping places or storing places, the time taken would be very much less.

I may add, since the main port with which we are concerned is Visakhapatnam, we have recently set up a group consisting of representatives of my Ministry, the Visakhapat-

nam Port Trust, the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and the Steel Ministry to go into this question in great detail to find out what can be done to facilitate speedier unloading from wagons and loading on ships.

Shri S. S. Kothari: The functioning of ports, Calcutta and Bombay in particular, is not satisfactory and there are repeated complaints that goods are not cleared immediately, that ships have to wait for a long time and there are difficulties in various other respects because of their improper functioning. Would the Minister kindly let us know what steps he proposes to take to improve the functioning of these ports?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: This question does not directly arise from the main question. But I am prepared to place information on what steps are being taken by us to improve the working of the Bombay and Calcutta ports.

Rationing Policy

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- *458. **Shri P. P. Esthose:**
Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shri K. Anirudhan:
Shri Vishwanatha Menon:
Shri Umanath:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present rationing policy is under review; and

(b) is so, in what respects?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. P. Esthose: May I know whether there has been any delay, in the arrival of foodgrains from abroad to India as a result of the closure of the Suez Canal? If so, may I know what is the extent of the delay, how far it has affected the supply of grains by the Centre to the States

and what will be its repercussions on the rationing system in the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): This is about rationing policy.

Shri Umanath: He has asked whether there is any delay in the supply of grains because the supply goes to rationing.

Mr. Speaker: It will affect the supply because of the delay.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The hon. Minister made a statement in the House the other day on the delay and its likely effect.

Shri Umanath: At present there are various kinds of rationing in the country, informal rationing, modified rationing, statutory rationing and I do not know what else. Those various differences are creating a lot of discontent among the people about their eligibility and other things. I would like to know whether there is any proposal with the Central Government to see that all these are merged into one statutory rationing in all the areas of the country.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjivan Ram): No, Sir. There is no proposal like that, and it will not be possible to have rationing throughout the country.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताएंगे—दिल्ली में राशनिंग काफी देर से है, इलेक्शन के दिनों में आपने यहाँ पर देशी गेहूँ दिया और उसके बाद दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन के कहने के बावजूद भी आप यहाँ पर देशी गेहूँ नहीं देते हैं—इस का क्या कारण है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We very much wish that indigenous wheat is available to Delhi citizens. After all, availability depends upon the availability of foodgrains procured from