

producers were getting soon after the harvest during the last three years and on that basis the minimum price has been fixed. As far as I am aware in the surplus States this price is considered to be quite reasonable and we are able to get sufficient stocks on behalf of the Government.

Shri R. S. Pandey: May I know as to what are the agencies which are involved in procurement of foodstuffs? Are the Centre and the States both doing or only the Centre is doing?

Shri C. Subramaniam: In certain States Central Agencies are doing; in certain other States the State agencies are doing.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I know the rates fixed by the Government for the foodgrains? Some of the State Governments have fixed the price but the kisans were approached and threatened to sell them at a price which was lower by Rs. 3 or Rs. 5 and they were told that otherwise grains would not be purchased from them? Has the Government any knowledge about it and have they set up any machinery to check such exploitation of the kisans?

Shri C. Subramaniam: So far this complaint has not been made to me.

Shri Priya Gupta: In Midnapore district, West Bengal; and in Bihar also....

Mr. Speaker: He was cheered when he stood up; now he should sit down.

Shri Nambiar: It is after three months that he is making his first appearance. He was put in jail. That is the pitiable plight of Members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: He has to make his presence felt; that is all.

Short Notice Question. **Shri Barman,**

Shri K. N. Tiwary: Sir, before we proceed to the next item, I want to

raise a very important matter about which there was a ruling given by you yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have passed on to the short notice question.

12:00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Calcutta Port

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S.N.Q. 10. { **Shri P. C. Barman:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Basappa:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that due to the delay of marine services the Calcutta Port is getting bad name as the delaying port in the maritime world and the ship-owners are hesitating to call at the Calcutta Port resulting in great loss to the Port Trust; apart from hampering import and export trade of India?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): It is a fact that there has been delay in shipping movements over the last four months and ships have been held up for varying periods because of the methods adopted by the Assistant Harbour Masters. When I was in Calcutta at the beginning of September, an understanding was reached over various matters the condition of which was primarily that the officers would give up delaying methods and would immediately start working normally, and in accordance with the practice of handling ships previously prevailing at the port. I regret to say that they have not honoured this undertaking so far. Government have, therefore, authorised the Chairman, Calcutta Port Commissioners, to deal with the situation firmly and to take appropriate steps to ensure restoration of normal methods of work. I hope better sense will yet prevail amongst the officers concerned. I may add that the Hooghly channel is a difficult river and none of the Marine Services should be or would be allowed to interrupt the service.

Mr. Speaker: There is too much of talk going on. I cannot hear what is being said.—Shri Barman.

Shri P. C. Barman: May I know whether the Government has received any complaints from the ship owners regarding the delay in marine services and, if so, what steps do the Government propose to take?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a fact.

Shri A. P. Sharma: Since this disobedience of orders in the Calcutta port is a normal feature nowadays, has the Government found out the causes or the reasons behind these people acting in this manner and what steps do the Government propose to take or have taken, against these people?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The main cause was the service rivalry between the Hooghly pilots and the Assistant Harbour Masters. The Hooghly pilots pilot the ships from Sandheads to Garden Reach and the Assistant Harbour Masters from Garden Reach to the port. Recently a reorganisation of the marine services was affected and certain points of dispute arose out of it which also were settled amicably and an undertaking was given. Yet, there are these delaying tactics, and we have asked the Chairman to attend to them and take such steps as are necessary.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: In view of the fact that with all the efforts made so far to bring a sort of cohesive working and smooth functioning, no good results have been achieved, may I know what new methods or measures the Government are intending to adopt so as to see that the people who adopt such tactics are punished properly?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Suitable disciplinary action will have to be taken, if, conditions do not approve.

दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना

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S.N.Q. 11. { श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :
श्री रामेश्वर टांडिया :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना ने घोषणा की है कि भविष्य में वह दिल्ली में उपभोक्ताओं को केवल टोन्ड दूध ही दे सकेगी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The Scheme started supplying toned milk from 5-12-1964. From 12-12-1964, toned milk and buffalo milk are being supplied on alternate days. This arrangement is temporary and is due to a shortfall in procurement of buffalo milk. The supply of buffalo milk on all the days is likely to be restored shortly.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सही है कि सरकार का विचार इस दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना को लिमिटेड कम्पनी बनाने का है, और इसी के कारण वहाँ के जो कर्मचारी हैं उन में बड़ा असन्तोष फैला हुआ है क्योंकि इस से काफी लोगों की छटनी होगी। वे लोग काफी मात्रा में दूध इकट्ठा नहीं करते।

Shri C. Subramaniam: That has nothing to do with the collection of milk. As a matter of fact, it is being converted into a Limited Company owned by the Government, on the recommendation of an expert committee.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : घ्राप जो कह रहे हैं, वह कारण नहीं है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यही कारण रहा है।