

श्री बबुसुबन राव : धान्य प्रवेस में सेट्टल गवर्नमेण्ट ने जो धान्य जमा किया है, उसकी बजह से हमारे बाहर से धान्य मंगाने के सम्बन्ध में क्या सहायता मिली है?

Shri A. M. Thomas: If the hon. Member kindly puts the question in English, I can answer that.

Shri Karmarkar: Let him repeat the question.

श्री बबुसुबन राव : धान्य प्रवेस में सेट्टल गवर्नमेण्ट ने जो धान्य जमा किया है, उसकी बजह से हमारे बाहर से धान्य मंगाने के सम्बन्ध में क्या सहायता मिली है ?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): In Andhra the surplus is expected to be about 6 to 8 lakh tons. This year we expect a normal crop and so the surplus would be 6 to 8 lakh tons. After meeting the demand of the South Zone, whatever is left over will be taken up for the use of outsiders

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what assistance was given by the Andhra State in procuring rice by the officers?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No special assistance was asked for. Andhra Government has co-operated with us

Shri Ranga: What is the present position? Now that the new crop is coming in, Government has to announce its policy. Have they decided on the quantities that they would like to take from Andhra and have they also arranged the necessary wagons in a phased manner?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have procured as on 8th December 1957 73,000 tons of rice from Andhra. In the three delta districts we are now procuring at the rate of controlled prices which, I think, the hon. Member as well as the House know well, as I have stated it on several previous occasions.

With regard to the future procurement prices, I don't think there is any difficulty. The Foodgrains Enquiry

Committee itself has reported certain prices to be adopted for the current year, and that price is not in considerable variance with the price that we are at present paying. So, I don't think there would be any difficulty in fixation of prices.

Then, with regard to movement and the difficulty just now mentioned by the hon. Member, there is at present some difficulty about movement. But, all the same, we are doing everything and the Railway Ministry is also co-operating with us to move as much quantity as possible. Out of 73,000 tons, which we have procured, we have been able to move about 57,564 tons.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that Government have not yet announced their price policy, that is, the price to be paid here and now for the crop, the rice millers are finding it difficult to purchase anything from the producers and the banks are also unwilling to advance any money, since the millers have not purchased it and advance can be made only on collateral security.

Shri A. M. Thomas: We will certainly be taking a decision on the price that will be paid for the crop that is coming in. That will also depend on the decision that we take on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee. This is a matter which cannot be delayed. We realise that. We would be fixing the price that would be reasonable in the circumstances.

Rice in Andhra

*1017. Kumari M. Vedakumari: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government in regard to clearing off the old stocks of rice in Andhra, when the new crop has started arriving in the market; and

(b) the reasons why the indents for about 400 broad gauge wagons and 104 metre-gauge wagons in Andhra are still pending compliance with the Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Surplus stocks of Andhra rice can freely move to other States within the Southern Zone where there is considerable demand particularly in Kerala. The Government of India are also purchasing rice in the three surplus Districts of Krishna, West Godavari and East Godavari.

(b) Due to dislocation of the services caused by heavy rains followed by the breaches on the Southern Railway in the first week of November, the movement of goods was seriously affected. Although through running of the full complement of trains has not yet been resumed, movement of rice has since commenced to the fullest extent possible.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: In answer to a Supplementary Question put by Mr. Heda on 28th November 1957, the hon. Deputy Minister has replied that due to breaches, which occurred in November, they could not supply the wagons. But the complaint was registered in October, that is, one month before the breaches. May I know the reason for that?

Shri A. M. Thomas: If you will look into the outstanding indents for the various months, you will find that there was some difficulty in October, when compared to previous months. For example, the outstanding indents on 1-7-57 was 2,900 and 2,448. Next month it came down to 180 and 1,066. Then the figures were 416 and 191. On 14-9-57, it was 63 and 16. On 31-10-57, it was 2322 and 2347. In the previous month, two weeks before that, it was 63 and 16. The inference is obvious that trade was not co-operating to move the quantities that were in stock.

Shri Ranga: Can we have an assurance that the Government continue their long-standing policy of giving first priority for the movement of foodgrains in view of the continued difficulty in the supply of foodgrains in different parts of the country and can we have an assurance that the Food Ministry has been taking sufficient steps in order to persuade the

Railway Ministry to place the necessary wagons at their disposal?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In this particular case, I may submit for the information of the House that the Southern Railway was prepared to co-operate with us to the fullest extent possible. The mistake was that trade was not co-operating properly at the proper time, and there was so much loss of capacity on account of that. On trade account, we have moved in the month of August 374 broad gauge wagons and 1046 metre gauge wagons. On Government account, 166 broad gauge wagons and 22 metre gauge wagons. In September, 361 broad gauge wagons and 627 broad gauge wagons. On Government account, 319 broad gauge and 274 metre gauge wagons. In October, you will find that we have moved 502 broad gauge wagons and 580 metre gauge wagons.

Shri Ranga: Against what demand? This does not help the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is more than satisfied.

Shri Ranga: I want to make one submission. If he simply gives the figures, it does not help the House to get a proper picture of the situation unless we are given comparative figures and against what demand made by the Food Ministry were these wagons made available for movement?

Mr. Speaker: Are we going into a detailed discussion? The hon. Member wanted to know if sufficient number of wagons are supplied. The hon. Minister has replied and given some details 63, 16 and so on. He has also said that it was due not to deficiency in wagon supply, but due to non-cooperation of trade in this matter. Are we to go further? Are we having a detailed statement and making an enquiry here?

Shri Ranga: The figures should not be misleading.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: I only wanted to inform the Minister that 360 wagons meant only 6 trains.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members have got many methods of understanding.

Shri Hoda: Is the hon. Minister in a position to make a categorical statement that whatever surplus rice is available in Andhra, they will be in certain markets, and whatever rice goes into the market, they will purchase; whether the mills purchase or not, whether they co-operate or not is not the point. The point is rice with the peasant.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Whatever surplus rice there is in Andhra, with the stockists or producer which they hand over to the Government, we are prepared to take.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the idea of conveying rice through the Buckingham canal to Madras has been examined by the Government

Shri A. M. Thomas: I wish to have notice.

Kakrapara Project

*1016. **Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kakrapara Project will require more amount to complete it; and

(b) if so, how much?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The original estimate amounted to Rs. 6.27 crores and was revised to Rs. 11.65 crores in 1954. It is understood that, on account of the construction of some essential cross-drainage works and alterations in the alignment, and capacity of channels, the actual expenditure will exceed the revised estimate and may come to approximately Rs. 17 crores. The Bombay Government have been requested to acquaint us with the details and the estimated revised cost of the Project.

Shri Khadilkar: May I know how far the additional expenses are due to wrong siting of the project, because, originally it was meant to be an irrigation project? There were no buyers

for the water in the area because it is a rainy area and therefore, this additional expense is being incurred.

Shri Hathi: I could not catch the first part of the question.

Shri Khadilkar: This project was intended to be an irrigation project. Even administrative expenses were not borne out, or received from the water charge from the agriculturists. Because of the wrong siting, this additional expense is being incurred. Originally it was meant as an irrigation project.

Shri Hathi: Even now, it is meant as an irrigation project. It is not a power project and the area is to be irrigated roundabout.

Shri Khadilkar: Is it not a fact that now there is a scheme to turn it into a power project?

Shri Hathi: No; not at all. This is not a project which is being converted into a power project. There seems to be some confusion. There was first a project which was to be an irrigation and power project, a multi-purpose project. But, in the initial stages, it was thought that we might first take a small project and keep it pending for a multi-purpose project. That multi-purposes project is now included in the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri Jadhav: May I know how much acreage is irrigated now and when the project is likely to be completed?

Shri Hathi: About 10,000 acres are being irrigated.

Shri Jadhav: When is the project likely to be completed?

Shri Hathi: The weir is completed. One side channel on the right side. The Left, I think, is progressing. It will take a couple of years.

Shri Dasappa: Does the project contemplate a betterment levy in view of the enhanced expenditure?

Shri Hathi: Generally, that is done by the State Government.