

LOK SABHA

Saturday, 27th September, 1958

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

खुले माल डिब्बों में खाद्य-पदार्थों का ले जाया जाना

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*१६४३-क { श्री भक्त वर्शन :
श्री मुहम्मद ताहिर :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मुजफ्फरपुर (बिहार) के जिला अधिकारियों द्वारा १५०० मन गेहूँ इसलिये खाने के उपयोग घोषित कर दिया गया है, क्योंकि वह खुले डिब्बों में आया था और इस कारण वर्षा में भीग कर खराब हो गया था ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस गेहूँ को किन कारणों से खुले डिब्बों में लाया गया ;

(ग) उपरोक्त घटना के लिये जिम्मेदार कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है ;

(घ) क्या इस तरह की लापरवाही की घटनायें देश के किन्हीं अन्य भागों में भी होने के समाचार मिले हैं , और

(ङ) भविष्य में ऐसी घटनायें न होने पाये इसके लिये कौन से कदम उठाये गये हैं अथवा उठाये जाने वाले हैं ?

211 (A) L.S.D.—1.

The Deputy Minister of Railways: (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No; but about 419 mds. of wheat were declared as unfit for human consumption by the Medical Officer of Health, Muzaffarpur Municipality.

(b) Due to very heavy allocations of foodgrains recently made for expeditious movement to Bihar from Visakhapatnam port and the shortage of covered wagons there, some movements were permitted in open wagons with the concurrence of the Ministry of Food.

(c) The matter is under detailed investigation and action will be taken against the staff, if found responsible.

(d) Some reports have been received from certain other stations of damage to foodgrains by wet.

(e) Adequate precautions were taken to ensure that the open wagons used for this purpose were covered with tarpaulins and properly lashed and that these were escorted throughout their run. With these precautions, normally there should have been no damage to the contents of the wagons.

श्री भक्त वर्शन : इस समय जो जाच पड़ताल की जा रही है, चूँकि यह मामला बहुत मगनी है, इस लिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि देर से देर कब तक इस बारे में फौमला हो जायेगा कि किस की जिम्मेदारी है ?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As soon as the enquiry is over, we shall know the result.

श्री भक्त वर्शन . क्या यह भी विचार किया जा रहा है कि अगर इस जाच पड़ताल के बाद यह साबित हो जाये कि रेलवे विभाग के कुछ कर्मचारियों की लापरवाही की वजह से

यह गल्ला सड़ गया, तो क्या उन लोगों से उसका रुपया वसूल किया जायेगा ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be hypothetical.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether Government will issue the necessary directions that foodgrains should not be transported in open wagons?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It all depends upon the circumstances. There were heavy commitments and goods had to be moved. In July and August we had to move 42,000 and 30,000 maunds respectively. There was shortage of covered wagons. Therefore, foodgrains had to be transported in open wagons with necessary precautions.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: When foodgrains are transported in open wagons is it not the practice to cover them with tarpaulins so that water will not percolate inside.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I have already said that they were covered with tarpaulins. It was done with the concurrence of the Ministry of Food. All precautions were taken. Normally, there would not be any damage.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो गेहूँ वहाँ लाया गया था वह कौन से स्टेशन से लाया गया था और कितनी कीमत के घनाज का नुकसान हुआ ?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: From Vizag port.

Shri Bhakt Darshan: What was the amount of cost?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am sorry, I have got figures only of quantity.

Purchase of Boats for D.V.C.

*1644. **Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for purchase of pleasure boats for Damodar Valley Corporation in the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount allotted thereto;

(c) total number of boats purchased up-to-date; and

(d) the amount spent to purchase these boats?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). There is no specific provision in the D.V.C. Schemes for the purchase of boats during the Second Five Year Plan period. A sum of Rs. 11 lakhs has, however, been provided for making available adequate facilities at tourist resorts. Expenditure on purchase of boats for promotion of tourist traffic can be met out of this provision, if necessary.

(c) 44.

(d) Rs. 1,25,601.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether it is a fact that the Audit Department has condemned the D.V.C. authorities for purchasing these boats without getting the sanction from the Government? If so, has any action been taken in this regard?

Shri Hathi: They have not raised any objection to purchasing the boats without the sanction of the Government. D.V.C. is an autonomous body. There is no question of their taking the sanction of the Government.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether it is a fact that high prices have been paid for purchasing these boats and, if so, why? Is it also a fact that the Audit Department has objected to it?

Shri Hathi: The price paid is not at all very high. 27 boats were purchased and the total cost paid is about Rs. 69,000. That is a very reasonable cost.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: The question was whether the Audit, in fact, raised any objection or not about the prices; not whether the prices, according to the Government, were high or not. May I know whether Audit raised any objection to the prices paid for the kinds of boats they purchased?