

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

*134. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the import programme of food grains for 1953;

(b) the quantities of food grains to be purchased abroad under agreements already entered into; and

(c) the price prospects for imported food grains?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) The import programme for 1953 has not yet been finalised. It is, however, estimated that imports may be up to 29 lakh tons.

(b) Wheat including wheat flour 14,52,890 tons, rice 22,900 tons and milo 108,000 tons.

(c) Prices during this year are not likely to be less than those prevailing last year in the case of rice and milo. In the case of wheat the landed cost will be less than what it was last year.

Shri B. K. Das: Is it a fact that there has been a rise in the price of rice import from Burma?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have not yet concluded our contracts with Burma but it is certain that we will have to pay about 10 per cent. more than what we have paid last year.

Shri B. K. Das: Under the contract with Burma we would have 3.5 lakh tons of rice each year, but was not the price fixed at the time when the contract was made?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: According to the trade contract we are entitled to get 3.5 lakh tons of rice. If the price are favourable we would try to fulfil the contract.

Shri B. K. Das: Is there any contract with Pakistan to have rice from that country this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No; we have not got any contract with Pakistan but Pakistan will have to give us 22,000 tons of rice under the barter agreement.

Shri Raghavaiah: In view of the stalemate at the International Wheat Conference is the Government of India in a position to get wheat from abroad?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The International Wheat Agreement that has already been entered into will expire only by the end of July this year. By the end of July we are getting about 15 lakhs tons of wheat according to the old terms. Any change in the International Wheat Agreement prices won't affect the price of this wheat.

Shri B. K. Das: From which country are we expecting rice this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We can get 3.5 lakh tons from Burma and the rest we usually get from Thailand and China. This year we are negotiating with Burma for a barter deal according to which we will get about 5 lakh tons of rice. We hope to import 7 lakh tons of rice this year and we propose to get 5 lakh tons of rice from Burma and then for 2 lakh tons of rice, we will have to go to Thailand or China.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know whether it is on Government to Government basis or on a private basis?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The import of rice is on Government to Government basis. According to the trade agreement with Burma, we have to get 2,30,000 tons of rice on Government to Government basis and the rest by trade.

Shri Dabhi: May I know if the price of milo imported was more than the price of wheat?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It was more than the price of wheat. This year also it will be slightly over the wheat prices.

Shri Dabhi: When the price is higher may I know why we should import milo?

Shri Kidwai: There are people who want to eat milo and not wheat.

सेठ अचल सिंह : क्या गवर्नमेंट यह मुनासिब नहीं समझती कि जो गल्ला गवर्नमेंट खरीदती है वह व्यापारियों के जरिये खरीदा जाय ?

श्री किदवाई : हम बाहर गल्ला देखते नहीं हैं ।

सेठ अचल सिंह : जो गल्ला गवर्नमेंट लेंचिल पर खरीदा जाता है क्या यह मुनासिब नहीं होगा कि यहाँ के व्यापारी वह गल्ला खरीदें ?

श्री किदवाई : व्यापारी जब सौदा करने जाते हैं तो दाम बढ़ जाता है।

श्री गणपती राम : क्या यह बात सत्य है कि बरमा से जो चावल आयात हो रहा उस का दाम पहले की बनिस्वत बरमा सरकार ने बढ़ा दिया है ?

श्री किदवाई : यह सत्य है।

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, the names of the countries from where foodgrains are going to be imported during this year?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: What foodgrains? If it is wheat.....

Shri S. N. Das: Wheat, rice, milo etc.

Shri Kidwai: Wheat is available from Australia, Canada and U.S.A. and sometimes we receive it from Argentina in barter; sometimes we receive offers also from Russia. The rice we get from China, Siam and Burma, and milo wherever we can get we procure it.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether any portion of the foodgrains imported during 1952 was given to any of the foreign governments in the enclaves in India?

Shri Kidwai: We supplied to Pakistan some wheat in exchange for rice and loaned some rice to Ceylon.

Shri P. T. Chacko: I was asking about the foreign enclaves such as Pondicherry and Goa.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: For Pondicherry, they had asked for a loan of about 30 tons of wheat flour. We told them that they would purchase the quantity. They have purchased from us that quantity and we have given it to them.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Will the proposed U.S.A. naval blockade affect the supply of rice from China?

Shri Kidwai: This has nothing to do with that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The naval blockade is indefinite and this is also indefinite.

Shri T. N. Singh: In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister last session of bumper crops of bajra in C.P. and other places, have Government reduced the import programme for milo and if so, to what extent?

Shri Kidwai: Government had no intention of importing milo this year but on account of the failure of milo crops in Madras, Mysore, Maharashtra and Saurashtra, we had to revise our programme.

Dr. Jaisoorjee: May I know, Sir, the budget estimate for these imports this year?

Shri Kidwai: That can be given only after we have negotiated the price.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has the hon. Food Minister made a statement on January 12, that there is no essential food shortage taking the country as a whole but the whole problem is one of procurement and maladministration?

Shri Kidwai: Government is always aware of the statement it makes but the question is whether any such statement was made.

सरदार ए० एम० सहगल : बरमा सरकार ने जो चावल का भाव बढ़ा दिया उस की वजह से भारतीय सरकार को कितना ज्यादा पैसा और देना पड़ेगा ?

श्री किदवाई : बरमा सरकार और दूसरी सरकारें जो चावल भेजती हैं वे हर छोटे महीने कुछ दाम बढ़ा देती हैं। कितना ज्यादा देना पड़ेगा यह इस पर मौकूफ है कि कितना चावल हम खरीदेंगे।

D.T.S. WORKERS' UNION (MEMORANDUM)

*135. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the unrest that prevails among the employees of the Delhi Transport Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the Delhi Transport Service employees have complained that their legitimate demands are not being conceded and that their leaders are being victimised?

(c) Will Government place on the Table of the House, a copy of the Memorandum submitted by the Delhi Transport Service Workers' Union containing their grievances and demands?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take in order to meet the demands of the Delhi Transport Service employees?