

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN U.P.

*1214. **Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the names and location of Community Projects in U.P. and specially in Banaras and Gorakhpur divisions, and

(b) the amount spent on them?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): (a) Six projects have been allotted to Uttar Pradesh as follows:

- (1) Maharaj Ganj-Sadar Tehsils—Gorakhpur District.
- (2) Ghosi-Muhammadabad-Gohana Tehsils—Azamgarh District.
- (3) Bikapur Tehsil—Faizabad District.
- (4) Mainpuri Tehsil—Mainpuri District.
- (5) Garautha-Mauranipur Tehsils—Jhansi District.
- (6) Almora Tehsil—Almora District.

(b) NIL.

Shri Ganpati Ram: In view of the fact that the Eastern districts of UP are mostly drought districts, may I know whether the Government will give priority to the implementation of these projects with larger sums?

Shri Nanda: So far as each project is concerned, a sum has already been settled. There is not going to be much variation in respect of the different projects.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know what is the sum of money that is to be spent by the Central Government and what is the contribution of the State Government in 1952-53.

Shri Nanda: I have given details regarding that already.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know what estimates are made in the sphere of development, production of foodgrains and manufactured goods, education and how far this will help in the amelioration of the economic condition of the people in the eastern districts of the UP?

Shri Nanda: A survey is in progress in respect of the community projects and precisely what will be the outcome will depend upon the result of that survey.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO DISTRESSED AREAS OF WEST BENGAL.

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

refer to my short notice question answered on the 5th June, 1952 and state:

(a) the scarcity areas he visited during his recent tour to West Bengal;

(b) the extent of distress in these areas and other areas brought to his notice as seriously affected;

(c) the main causes of distress in these areas;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the prices of food-grains to make them within the reach of ordinary people;

(e) the number of persons covered by test relief and gratuitous relief;

(f) the stocks of rice and wheat with the State Government at present; and

(g) the estimated quantities of rice and wheat that would be necessary to meet the situation in places outside the areas statutorily rationed?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Chakdah in Nadia District and Hatgachi, Bermajur and Hasnabad in Sunderban area.

(b) Severe distress prevails in all these places particularly in 3 Thanas of 24-Parganas viz. (1) Hasnabad, (2) Sandeshkhali and (3) part of Haroa. The population affected in this area is 4.1 lakhs approximately.

(c) The prevalence of acute distress in these areas is due to (i) considerable damage caused to crops on account of breaches in the embankments in consequence of the floods of September 1950, (ii) failure of crops due to irregular rainfall in 1951, (iii) high price of rice and (iv) low purchasing power of the people.

(d) One of the reasons for the rise in prices in 24-Parganas district is that local rice is being smuggled into Calcutta. The State Government are being given extra rice for distribution in Calcutta through a chain of special shops and simultaneously measures against smuggling of rice into Calcutta will be tightened. These measures have the effect of stopping local rice from leaving the area, and the price is expected to fall. The Government are also issuing 10,000 tons of rice and 10,000 tons of wheat in the affected parts at a reduced price of Rs. 15 per maund.

(e) About 8,500 people are daily provided with work on test works and gratuitous relief has been rendered to more than 5,000 families.

Besides, 5,000 mds. of wheat and 5,000 mds. of rice are being distributed as gratuitous doles through non-official organisations.

(f) On the 15th of June 1952, the Government of West Bengal had the following stocks:—

Rice	92,400 tons
Wheat	156,600 tons
	249,000 tons

(g) The present rate of distribution under modified rationing is about 2,200 tons of rice and 2,200 tons of wheat per week. At this rate the requirement for the period June to December will be roughly 68,000 tons of rice and 68,000 tons of wheat. But the population covered by modified rationing is likely to increase during the coming months. During last year the actual distribution under modified rationing for the period June to December amounted to 54,000 tons of rice and 106,000 tons of wheat or a total of 160,000 tons. Distribution this year may go up to about 75,000 tons of rice and 70,000 tons of wheat. West Bengal Government estimate that during this period they will have to distribute 95,000 tons of rice and 89,000 tons of wheat under modified rationing.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what is the effect of the steps so far taken and how far the price of rice has fallen?

Shri Kidwai: When I was in 24-Parganas and Nadia the prices were about Rs. 45 a maund. Yesterday's reports were that the prices have fallen to Rs. 30-2-0 a maund.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether these measures have been taken in any other districts outside the 24-Parganas?

Shri Kidwai: The measures have been taken wherever distress prevailed or the price of rice had gone up to Rs. 45 a maund.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that the pressure of procurement of rice from the outlying districts to Calcutta is one of the reasons of distress, so that large quantities of rice are smuggled into Calcutta and the price has gone up in the outlying areas?

Shri Kidwai: It is not a case of the procured rice, that is being smuggled into Calcutta or sold at high price.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what steps are being taken to stop that smuggling and whether it is a fact that the Government is going to take charge of the rationed area of Calcutta in order to reduce the pressure?

Shri Kidwai: Government has undertaken to provide all that is required for the rationing of the Calcutta Industrial area so that the rice procured from different districts should be retained in those areas and be sold wherever there is distress.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what has been actually sent to the Province of West Bengal by this time?

Shri Kidwai: I cannot actually say 'how much'. But they have got sufficient stock to feed Calcutta for three months and I think it is more than 35,000 tons that has been allotted. Some of it has reached there already and other ships will be reaching Calcutta in the course of next month.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, whether Government is prepared to take the responsibility for the whole quantity of rice that will be necessary as stated by the hon. Minister in reply to Part (g) of the question?

Shri Kidwai: Yes.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that there is a large amount of stocks with the Government, do the Government propose to increase the quantum of rations instead of this proposal of opening fair price shops in Calcutta?

Shri Kidwai: I am afraid the quantum of rations fixed by the Bengal Government cannot be raised.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May we know also what percentage of the people in the three areas visited by the hon. Minister, have no purchasing power?

Shri Kidwai: It is difficult for me to say what percentage of the people are unable to purchase, but most people who are employed as agricultural labourers or as petty cultivators are affected by it.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that test relief is not possible in view of the monsoons, what will happen to these people who have no purchasing power since the amount allotted is not adequate to meet the purchasing power?

Shri Kidwai: What is the amount?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: You have said 10,000.

Shri Kidwai: That is in the first instance. This will be continued so long as it is necessary. Whatever quantity will be required will be supplied.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Another question. With regard to the amount that is being given for test works and gratuitous relief, has any policy been laid down by Government as to the form or machinery through which this relief is going to be distributed?

Shri Kidwai: The Bengal Government has decided that the distribution should be through a non-official body. I do not know the details.

Shrimati Benn Chakravarty: Does it mean that it is going to be given generally through the Congress Party?

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): If they are the only non-officials.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has stated he visited three Police Stations in 24-Parganas and one in Nadia. Has he got any information about other Police Stations of 24-Parganas, viz., Bangao Sub division, and other areas of Nadia?

Shri Kidwai: Of course, the distress was not confined to the places which I visited. Otherwise I would not have visited.

Shri A. C. Guha: Are we to understand that the relief and the test works are to be provided only for these four Thanas and not to be extended to the other distressed areas, viz., Bangao Sub-division and Haringhata Police Station?

Shri Kidwai: It also applies to other areas. I have stated some of the test relief areas and not all.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that a virulent propaganda is being carried on by some interested political parties to the effect that the consumption of wheat is detrimental to the health of the Bengalees and therefore should not be consumed by the people of the famine stricken areas?

Shri Kidwai: Of course, interested parties may say anything, but I have been told that the change of diet is doing good to the Bengalees.

Pandit L. K. Maitra: The hon. Minister just now stated that as an interim measure of relief he has sanctioned 5,000 tons of wheat and rice for free distribution to people and 10,000 tons of wheat and rice for sale at Rs. 15 a maund. Do I take it, Sir, that that is the final amount that he is considering, or will he go on increasing it from time to time when necessity arises?

Shri Kidwai: I have already stated that this quantity was issued in the first instance, but so long as necessity continues, this relief will continue.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, whether Government is contemplating free movement of foodgrains in the districts?

Shri Kidwai: I have already stated clearly, not here, but in a press statement, that after this Aus crop the Government is going to change their methods of procurement, and after that has been introduced, there will be free movement outside Calcutta from one district to another.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DEATH OF AN INDIAN IN LOCK-UP IN MALAYA

*1183. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian, arrested by the Malaya Police died in the lock-up recently; and

(b) what step India's Representative in Malaya took over this matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). The hon. Member is presumably referring to the death on the 26th March 1952, in the Police Lock-up at Klang in Malaya, of one Kalimuthu allegedly as a result of police beatings. As soon as the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya came to know of this incident, he took it up with the local Commissioner of Police who has promised full investigation into the case. One Special Constable has since been arrested on a charge of causing the death of Kalimuthu.

PRINTING EXPERT FROM U. K.

*1184. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Printing Expert was engaged by the Government from U.K.; and

(b) if so, what are his experiences with regard to printing?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) He joined the Stationery Office of the British Government in 1935, and until 1939 he was engaged in the ordering of departmental printing. From 1939 to 1942 he was employed as security control officer at Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Press Harrow. From 1942 to 1946 he was in the Royal Air Force. In 1946 he was promoted and transferred to Stationery Office headquarters in costing duties. In 1949 he was appointed Works Manager of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Press, War Office, which post he held for 2½ years. Prior to his departure for India he was in charge of the Section in Printing and Binding Division dealing with Parliamentary and non-Parliamentary publications of the British Government.

मकानों का निर्माण

*१२०४. **शेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या निर्माण, गृह-व्यवस्था तथा रसद मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५२