

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : १९४३ से ले कर १९४८ तक आप ने जो पुराने डकोटा लिये उससे पहले उनका जीवन काल क्या था ? और क्या इसका आपको कोई पता है कि वे कितने दिन चल चुके हैं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : उसी काल में उनका बनना शुरू हुआ था और उसी काल में वह आये थे। वह लड़ाई के जमाने में लिये गये थे।

Mr. Speaker: I think the point of the question seems to be this: what were the hours for which the dakotas had worked before they were purchased?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They were purchased as new, during the time of the war. Later, we got them for civilian purposes either from the disposals or from the U.S.A. direct.

FOOD POSITION

*68. **Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the food position in the country for 1954;

(b) the States that are likely to be deficit in foodgrains in 1954; and

(c) the quotas to be allotted from the Central stock of foodgrains for such deficit States?

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

(a) As a result of the good kharif crop of 1953-54 and the promise of a good winter crop which is to be harvested in the next two or three months, the food position in the country in 1954 is likely to be much more favourable than in the last several years.

In view of the satisfactory supply position, coarse grains have been completely decontrolled since 1st January 1954 except that movement from Saurashtra, Madhya Bharat and eleven districts of the Banaras Food Region

of Uttar Pradesh, which are considered to be deficit in coarse grains, has not been permitted.

Wheat has also been decontrolled though inter-State movement of wheat on trade account is still not permitted. There is ample stock of wheat in Central Reserve and arrangements are being made to sell this wheat freely to consumers and traders at Rs. 15-8-0 per maund wholesale without any quantitative restriction.

As regards rice, it is expected that there will be sufficient internal surplus to meet the requirements of deficit States.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House showing the names of States deficit in rice and the quotas of rice likely to be allotted to them during 1954. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15.]

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know, Sir, whether India is purchasing rice from Burma to supplement her food position?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): We have been negotiating for the purchase of six lakh tons to build up reserves in this country.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that negotiations broke down in the first instance due to the insistent demand of the Burmese Government for higher prices, and by the time the rice could be sold at a reduced price, it partly became decomposed?

Shri Kidwai: It is true that negotiations were started last year. When I wanted to purchase rice at £40 per ton, the Burmese rice prevalent at that time was about £60 per ton. Therefore, the deal was not gone through. But negotiations were resumed sometime last month and we have almost concluded an agreement for purchasing six lakh tons of rice.

Mr. Speaker: His allegation is that by the time the prices were reduced the rice became decomposed.

Shri Kidwai: We will purchase rice which is not decomposed. Whether it is old or new crop, it does not matter.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: I find from the statement that Bombay, Madras, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir and Travancore-Cochin are deficit States during the year 1954. May I know whether the rest have been considered to be self-sufficient in rice during 1954?

Shri Kidwai: Rice supplies have to be made to Calcutta city, to Travancore-Cochin and to Bombay. Hyderabad and Mysore have become self-sufficient. Supplies from Andhra will be more than enough to meet the requirements of the remaining part of Madras, that is, Tamilnad. Therefore, the surplus that has been declared by States is about three lakh tons more than the requirements of the deficit States.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has the Government got any general policy of decontrol, since the food supply position is far better now?

Shri Kidwai: We are relaxing the food controls step by step, and the general trend is—and I think everybody admits it—that the food position is better. We were procuring rice and controlling price in every State after we gave up control of other food-grains. But now, about rice itself, the position is such that we have stopped procurement in U.P., because the U.P. prices were higher than those in other States of India, and we allowed licensed shops of Calcutta to purchase freely in U.P. But as rice was available in Calcutta itself at such prices, hardly anyone had made any purchases. Similarly, we have asked the Punjab Government not to procure any more, because we will not require procurement. Only yesterday, the papers have published that in Punjab also, the movement of rice will be free and rationing had been stopped. Rationing is prevalent in Calcutta and Darjeeling cities in West Bengal. In

Travancore-Cochin also, rationing is prevalent side by side with the free market. In Bombay, where rationing continues, the ration supplies have been raised from two ounces to four and a half to six ounces. That is an indication that the supply position is much better now. We have allowed imports from foreign countries and many people took licences, but, barring, I think, 1,000 or 2,000 tons, no importer could import because the prices here were much lower. Ration rice was available in such quantity that the imported rice could not be sold. I hope this is considered as sufficient relaxation that has been made.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I know when the rationing system in Delhi will be ended?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Very soon: within a fortnight.

Mr. Speaker: The question-hour is over.

Shri Raghavaiah: There is one minute more, Sir. The question hour is not yet over.

Mr. Speaker: As I see the clock on this side, it is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

CLOSING DOWN OF SUGAR MILLS IN U.P.

S.N.Q. 1. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the canegrowers of certain areas of the Uttar Pradesh have recently stopped supplying sugarcane to the sugar factories?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for their doing so?

(c) Have any sugar factories of the areas concerned been closed down on account of the non-availability of sugarcane?

(d) If so, what are the names of those factories?

(e) Have any efforts been made by Government to restore harmony between the canegrowers and factory owners?