

[Shri A. P. Jain]

view that there would be sufficient supply of foodgrains, either wheat or rice. Since my return from Calcutta, I have been informed that fairly large quantities of wheat and rice have been rushed to West Dinajpur and other parts of North Bengal for relieving distress in those areas.

In certain parts of West Bengal particularly in the North Bengal districts, the need has arisen for increasing the purchasing power of the population. Test relief works have been undertaken in these areas and other relief measures have been taken. The District Magistrates of these districts have been directed to augment test relief works and to include among them the use of Chakkis for flour making, construction of open wells and ring wells, excavation of dried-up tanks and cleaning of derelict water courses.

The Government of India have also agreed to advance a sum of Rs. 1.5 crores to the West Bengal Government to enable them to make taqavi loans available to farmers.

The Government are confident that, with the resources at their disposal and with the willing co-operation of all, they would be able to keep the situation in hand.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): A copy of the statement may be supplied at least to Bengal Members.

Mr. Speaker: Certainly; such of the Members who want a copy will certainly have a copy.

Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri (Nabadwip): Is the hon. Minister aware that there is sale of children owing to paucity of food in West Bengal and may I know whether where that has occurred, food supplies will be rushed quickly?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have seen the newspaper report; I wanted a verifi-

cation from the West Bengal Government, but they have not been able to do it, because it will need some enquiry and the report relates to West Dinajpur, where, as I have already said in my statement, food supplies have been sent already in fairly large quantities.

CORRECTION OF ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARIES ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 1885.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): With your permission, Sir, I would like to make a correction to two statements which I made on the floor of this House on the 28th April, 1958, while replying to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 1885, by Shri Joachim Alva and by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

At one stage, I stated:

"That was a criminal case, whereas this is a departmental inquiry. Therefore, the nature of the inquiry is quite different. It also depends on the Inquiry Commission."

This statement should actually read as:

"That was an inquiry under the Public Servants (Inquiry) Act, 1850, which had to be formal and public, while this is a departmental inquiry under the All India Service (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1955. Therefore, the nature of the inquiry and the approach is quite different."

At another stage, I stated:

"The question is only of Mr. Vaidyanathan. In that case, the L.I.C. has entrusted the enquiry to the same Board. It has been entrusted by them and not by the Government".

This answer should read as follows:

"The question is only of Mr. Vaidyanathan. In that case, the Life Insurance Corporation will entrust the enquiry to the same board. It will be entrusted by them and not by the Government."

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTARY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 775

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): While replying to a supplementary question on 8.3.1958 arising out of Starred Question No. 775, I had stated that the cost of the Stadium at Gauhati was Rs. 1,88,650. The actual figure however is Rs. 15,88,650.

STATEMENT CLARIFYING ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARIES ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 2016

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah): In the supplementary questions arising from the answer given to the Starred Question No. 2016 in the Lok Sabha on the 6th May, 1958, Shri Hem Raj wished to know the value of the articles stolen from the Ordnance Factory, Khama-ria, and the officers involved in the theft. Further, Shri S. M. Banerjee desired to know the cause of the death of a J.C.O. of M.D.S.C. attached to the factory and if the death was connected with the enquiry. The answers given in reply to these questions are likely to give an impression that there was a theft of property worth Rs. 178 lakhs in the Ordnance Factory and that it was admitted that the death of the J.C.O. had some relation with the enquiry into the losses conducted by Dr. Kasbekar.

To correct any misimpressions that might have been created by the questions and replies to the supplementaries, I have had this matter enquired into further and in the light of further information and analysis of this case made available to me, I am laying before the House a statement which would explain and clarify the position. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-733/58].

I may be permitted to say that the losses incurred by the enquiry board covered a prior period—1949 to 1957, and that the losses are due to various reasons. One is scrapping of obsolete and unwanted stores and other reasons are transit cost, deficiency in stock verification, losses on account of disposal of surplus, etc. Therefore, the vast bulk of losses was due to reasons other than theft. Anyhow, I am laying the statement.

Mr. Speaker: Is the amount the same?

Shri Raghuramaiah: On verification, it has been found to be inflated. I have given the correct figures in the statement. It will be seen from the statement that the loss is found to be—speaking again very broadly, because it is still under examination—only Rs. 88 lakhs. Out of this, scrapping of obsolete and unwanted stores alone accounts for Rs. 60 lakhs. Deficiencies on stock verification account for Rs. 18.9 lakhs. The loss due to other causes is a small amount, Rs. 8.7 lakhs.

STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SUPPLEMENTARIES ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 1793.

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswami): Prior to 1953, there were no specific or uniform instructions regarding the procedure to be adopted for changing the names of stations by the Railways and of Post Offices by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Requests receiv-