

12.22 hrs.

PETITION RE: CLASSIFICATION
OF AGRI-COMMUNITY AS A
BACKWARD COMMUNITY

Shri M. L. Jadhav (Malegaon): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Sonubhau Dagadu Baswant and others regarding classification of Agri-community as a backward community.

12.22½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DEFENCE
MINISTER'S VISIT TO U.K.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on my visit to the United Kingdom. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3466/64].

Mr. Speaker: It may be circulated to Members.

Shri Hem Barua: May I ask a clarification from the hon. Defence Minister?

Mr. Speaker: When it reaches him, he may look into it and then seek clarifications. The Food Minister.

12.22½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: FOOD POSITION
IN KERALA

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. B. Chavan): The stock position in Kerala is satisfactory.... (Interruptions). There are adequate stocks already available in the State to meet the rationing commitments. One steamer with 10,000 tons of rice is already unloading at Kozhikode. Another steamer carrying 3,000 tons is expected in the first week of December. In addition, 10,000 tons of rice from the Punjab and Madhya Pradesh will be reaching Kerala before the end of this month. Two ships carrying rice from Pakistan totalling 7,500 tons are due in the first half of Dec-

ember. Another two steamers carrying 17,000 tons from Thailand are also expected in the first half of December. The programme of despatching at least one special a day of 1,000 tons from Andhra is continuing. In all a programme of despatches of rice to Kerala during December of the order of 99,000 tons as against the monthly commitment of 65,000 tons has been laid on. No difficulty is likely to be experienced in meeting the rationing commitments in that State.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): What is the stock position now? He has spoken about the future stock position, first week of December. What is the stock position today in Kerala?

Mr. Speaker: I have three names with me—Mr. Banerjee, Vasudevan Nair and Kumaran.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): After hearing from the hon. Deputy Minister it appears that only a small quantity has reached Kerala and something is on way. I want to know what is the rationing or quota? Is it a fact that today an adult is getting a quantity which is not more than 350 individual grains of rice and if so whether a parliamentary enquiry committee will be appointed to go into the entire question?

Shri D. B. Chavan: So far as the present stock position is concerned, I have already mentioned in the statement that it is satisfactory.... (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Let him answer first.

Shri D. B. Chavan: I said that it is satisfactory. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: They want a concrete answer. (Interruption). Order, order.

Shri Hem Barua: He simply says it is satisfactory.

Shri Alvares (Panjim): Is it satisfactory to the Kerala people?