

(c) the loss sustained by the Railways?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) The accident took place at Memari station. Sixteen persons were injured of whom 3 sustained grievous injuries.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation.

(c) The approximate cost of damage to railway property was Rs. 1,00,700.

बड़े नगरों में कानूनी तौर पर राशन व्यवस्था लागू करने के बारे में किये गये निश्चय" ।

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): A conference of the Chief Ministers was held at New Delhi on the 17th and 18th November, 1964. The present food supply position in the country was reviewed and the policy to be followed during the coming months was discussed. After detailed discussions, it was decided that:

(i) The present zonal restrictions on the movement of wheat may be allowed to continue and the position reviewed in March 1965 when the prospects of the next wheat crop would be known.

(ii) Each State may be constituted into a separate rice zone except that the Northern Zone comprising the State of Punjab and the Union Territories of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh may continue as at present.

(iii) Rice will be purchased on Government account in the surplus States for supply to the deficit States on a Government to Government basis. The States concerned have agreed to the following quantities being procured during the period from the 1st November 1964 to the 31st October 1965 for supply to the deficit States:

Andhra Pradesh—8 lakh tonnes.

Madras—2 lakh tonnes.

Madhya Pradesh—4 lakh tonnes.

Punjab—2.5 lakh tonnes.

Orissa—3 lakh tonnes.

Over and above these quantities, such additional quantities will be procured as are necessary to meet the internal requirements of the States.

(iv) The main objective of the procurement and import policy is to enable a sizable buffer stock of rice and

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE.

DECISION TAKEN AT THE CHIEF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE REGARDING ABOLITION OF FOOD ZONES AND INTRODUCTION OF STATUTORY RATIONING.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Y. S. Chaudhary.

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa (Kotah): **

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have called Shri Y. S. Chaudhary.

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa: **

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह कार्यवाही नहीं लिखी जायेगी ।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Y. S. Chaudhary is absent. Then, Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaia.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्त्व के निम्नलिखित विषय को अोर खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :—

"मुख्य मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में खाद्य जोनों को समाप्त करने और

wheat to be built up. This implies restraint on issues from Government stocks during the post harvest period.

(v) Statutory rationing will be introduced in Calcutta on a date to be fixed by the State Government. As regards other cities with a population of one million and over, State Governments have been given the option to introduce such regulatory measures as they may consider necessary and the Central Government would make available such supplies as are necessary for meeting the commitments in these cities. The informal rationing introduced in Kerala will continue.

(vi) State Governments may be permitted to prohibit the export of coarse grains from their respective States except that surplus States which have traditionally been exporting coarse grains to other States should continue to allow such export on a regulated basis.

(vii) All restrictions on the movement of pulses may be removed immediately except that the existing restrictions on the export of gram may continue till the arrival of the next crop and the States concerned shall allow export of 50 per cent of the stock of gram held by traders.

(viii) All restrictions imposed by State Governments on the movement of oil and oil seeds may be removed immediately except that the existing restrictions on the movement of mustard seed from U.P. may be allowed to continue till the arrival of the next crop.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछत्राय : क्या यह सही है कि जोन होने के कारण जिन प्रदेशों में अनाज की कमी है, वहां अनाज जाने में काफ़ी दिक्कत होती है और इसी कारण ब्लैक-मार्केटिंग होती है ? किन किन राज्यों ने जोन तोड़ने का विरोध किया ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This decision was taken only recently, and there-

fore, whether there are any difficulties, and if so, what those difficulties are likely to be, cannot be envisaged now. But we hope on the basis of the procurement to be undertaken by the surplus States for the purpose of making it available for the benefit of the deficit States it would be possible to meet the situation.

Mr. Speaker: Which were the States which were against the termination of these zones?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think I will name States. There was a general discussion and views were expressed. But the decision was unanimous.

श्री बड़े (खारगोन) : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा है कि जोन नहीं तोड़े जायेंगे । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बाद में शासन का विचार जोन्स को तोड़ने का है, क्योंकि रबी की नई फ़सल आ रही है ।

Mr. Speaker: Is it contemplated to do away with these zones?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have stated the basis of the new decision. After the prospect of the next rabi crop, the position will be further reviewed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Seven cities in India with a population of 10 lakhs or more were selected for implementing statutory rationing. May I know whether the majority of the Chief Ministers did not agree to this because of inadequate supply from the Centre, lack of proper stock and of an efficient distribution machinery at the State level? If so, what is the reaction of Government and the further advice given in the matter?

Shri C. Subramaniam: All these points were discussed. It is only on that basis that the decision has been taken that each State Government should review the position in its own State and take decisions with regard to the regulatory measures it has to take in these big cities.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question was whether the majority of the Chief Ministers did not agree because of the three reasons I stated, and I want an answer to that.

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is no majority or minority in this matter; these are all unanimous decisions.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): I do not want to ask a question, but I want your guidance on one matter.

The Chief Ministers' conference took place ten days ago. Their decisions were announced the next day in the newspapers. Is it satisfactory for the Minister to come to Parliament only when there is a call attention notice on the subject? On a previous occasion, we were assured that as soon as the decisions were taken, we would be informed. Government have been repeatedly told that on such matters Parliament should be the first forum where they should come out with the decisions taken, but with mulish obduracy they continue to defy us. I would request you to persuade them that this is not fair to Parliament.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry. I owe an explanation to the House. The discussions took place at the Chief Ministers' conference. After that, they had to be processed before being finalised as decisions to be announced. I was hoping to announce it as soon as it was finalised.....

Shrimati Benu Chakravarty (Barrackpore): It came out in the papers the next day.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Meanwhile, the call attention notice came.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We knew from the papers that certain decisions were taken at the Chief Ministers' conference. Unfortunately, the name of the Prime Minister was brought in there, that it was at his instance and advice that it has been decided to say nothing in Parliament about these. I

wrote to you a letter saying that Parliament is being treated with contempt. You were good enough to club my name along with others in this call attention notice. But I want to know whether there is any truth in that report.

Shri Nath Pai: We want a pronouncement from you.

Mr. Speaker: It is not possible to preclude all possibilities of any officials or Ministers making any statement at any time outside Parliament. There might be occasions when this has to be done and it might be done. But it is desired, and it has been observed here so many times, that when such an important decision is taken, Parliament should be the first body to be informed about it.

12.09 hrs.

RE. CALLING ATTENTION NOTICES
PROCEDURE

Mr. Speaker: Shri S. M. Banerjee has written to me that there was a call attention notice to be taken up at 5 P.M. yesterday. There was then an objection taken that there was no quorum and so that could not be answered.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): That was answered in part.

Mr. Speaker: Then that part would remain. If there is something else, that might be given in writing. The Minister might just place it on the Table of the House.

As regards these call attention notices, according to our rules, it is only one notice that can be taken up in one sitting. But to avoid being caught in that rule, I have been trying to clear arrears by putting some notice at 5 P.M., even though the sitting has not finished. I am doing so because on the first day I got about 70 notices, and I thought there were