

Time permitting, I propose also, as I stated yesterday, to bring before this House the University Grants Commission Bill for reference to a Joint Committee.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
BAN ON EXPORT OF TAPIOCA STARCH
AND FLOUR

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): Under Rule 215, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The necessity for immediate removal of ban on export of tapioca starch and flour to Continents in order to offset the growing steep fall in prices of tapioca, ruining lakhs of cultivators and increasing tremendously unemployment among agricultural and industrial workers in Travancore-Cochin State and in Malabar district of Madras State."

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): A short notice question was also received in this connection from Shri Matthen and Shri A. M. Thomas and the position is as follows:

The recent decline in prices of tapioca has not been confined to that commodity alone; prices of almost all agricultural commodities have undergone decline in recent months. As a matter of fact, it is not recently that prices of tapioca have fallen but that the downward trend began several months ago. The prices indeed, have been virtually steady for the past few months. Since tapioca constitutes an important subsidiary food in Travancore-Cochin, the State Government of Travancore-Cochin has been anxious to preserve the available supplies in the State for the consumption of the poorer sections of the population. It was at the instance of the Travancore-Cochin Government that the export of tapioca outside India has not been permitted. Until very recently,

even the export of tapioca outside Travancore-Cochin to other States remained banned; this ban on inter-State movement was lifted only about a month ago. With a view to preventing the prices from falling to an unduly low level, the Government of 1954 have now decided to permit the export of 10,000 tons of tapioca flour and 2,000 tons of tapioca starch as an immediate measure. The Government will keep a watch on the behaviour of prices of tapioca and its products and take suitable measures to safeguard the interests of both the producer and the consumer.

RESOLUTION RE: REPORT OF
RAILWAY CONVENTION COM-
MITTEE

Mr. Speaker: I think the time allotted for this Resolution is six hours.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee appointed to review the rate of dividend at present payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with the separation of Railway Finance from General Finance, which was presented to Parliament on 30-11-1954".

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** in the Chair]

This House is aware that a Committee of both the Houses of Parliament was set up on the 12th May 1954, by a Resolution adopted by this House, and concurred in by the Rajya Sabha on 14th May 1954, to review the rate of dividend payable by the railway undertaking to the general revenues as well as other ancillary matters connected with the separation of railway finance from the general finance. The review indicates that the principle underlying the separation of railway finance from the general finance has worked satisfactorily during the period of five years and has enabled the railways to discharge their obligations effectively.