

PARADEEP PORT

100 SHRI S. SUPAKAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the time by when the Paradeep port will be completed and open to sea traffic, and

(b) the total expenditure involved in the project?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY).

(a) The first stage of the development of Paradeep Port to enable it to handle two million tonnes of iron ore is nearing completion. Two tugs are, however, required to bring the ships into the Port. Hulls for the tugs have already been built at Calcutta. The engines and other machinery to be fitted in the tugs are being imported from Holland. This machinery is expected to be received by September, 1966 and the tugs are expected to be delivered by October 1966. Meanwhile, the possibility of acquiring two second-hand tugs urgently so that foodgrain ships can be handled at the Port is being considered. The Port will be opened to traffic as soon as the tugs are received.

(b) The total expenditure on the first stage development of the Port is estimated at Rs 205 crores.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES COMMISSION

101 SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA
SHRI S. SUPAKAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission, Shri M. L. Dantwala, has tendered his resignation;

(b) whether it is a fact that another member of the Commission had resigned earlier;

(c) if so what were the reasons for these two resignations, and

(d) whether it is proposed to appoint other people to fill up these vacancies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) (a) No Sir

(b) Yes Sir, Dr Raj Krishna resigned on August 12, 1965.

(c) A copy of the relevant portion from the letter of Dr Raj Krishna containing the reasons for his resignation is attached.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Copy of the relevant portion from the letter of Dr Raj Krishna

RAJ KRISHNA 31, Ravindra Nagar,
New Delhi
August 12, 1965

Dear Shri Subramaniam,

After very careful and anxious consideration, I have decided to resign my position as a member of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

I whole-heartedly support many elements of the present food price policy such as price support, massive public sector purchases, procurement and public distribution of foodgrains which may increase, in my view, not only to 25 per cent but even to about 50 per cent of the marketed surplus.

But I cannot reconcile myself to some other elements of policy as the policy of movement restrictions, and the consequent inter-State disparities in supplies and prices, divergent levy and procurement policies, *ad-hoc* maximum price policies, etc. I have also serious doubts not about the logical necessity of rationing but about the workability and some of the economic and welfare consequences of it in the conditions of our country.

I am convinced that a policy of distribution through a rationalised and greatly expanded FPS system would be a better alternative from every point of view. I would also prefer free inter-State movement, a two-price regime of the kind suggested by the Commission, and a uniform national levy-cum-purchase policy designed to acquire 25 to 50 per cent of the marketed grain surplus.

Of course, Commissions can only recommend policies. It is your absolute prerogative to decide policy. And you have decided what in your judgement, is the best or the least bad policy in the present circumstances, in consultation with Chief Ministers and your Cabinet colleagues. In the case of permanent civil servants it is right and proper that they should try to implement any policy that is decided. But persons like me called in for temporary advisory work can do it properly only if they do not disagree with the major components of policy. Otherwise, their association with the Government is bound to be an abnormal strain for them and for the Government.

It would, for example, be very odd for me to oppose the fixation of maximum prices for certain types of transactions and then to help in the determination of maximum prices; to oppose the continuation of zones and then to help in the determination of the "right" quantities of "exports" and "imports" of every State in India. It is very distressing for me to read reports of distress which could, according to my reasoning, be less with different policy, and yet to be associated with the pursuit of the present policy.

In view of these considerations I request you to accept my resignation and relieve me as early as possible.

NATIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

102. SHRI RAMGOPAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the preparation of the Emergency National Food Distribution Scheme; and

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme and how it will be implemented in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b). A national food budget taking into account the surpluses and the deficits of the different States and the likely availabilities from imports has not yet been finalised.

FOOD AGREEMENT WITH U.S.A.

103. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported offer of 15 million tons of foodgrains by the United States of America has been negotiated and an agreement signed;

(b) if not, for how many tons of foodgrains agreement has been reached and signed; and

(c) whether the 15 million-ton offer is conditioned upon India's accepting U.S.A.I.D.'s recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) No.

(b) The supplies of foodgrains from U.S.A. are currently coming under the P.L. 480 Agreement of September 1964 as amended from time to time.