

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Sir, part (a) of the question asked the Government to give the names of the States where famine conditions exist for the last six months. Why is it that the name of Kerala State is not included, although famine conditions exist in Kerala for the last six months? And also why has not that expert team been sent to Keraia to enquire into the food situation there?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I want categorically to state that there are no famine conditions in Kerala.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: There are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

RICE SPOILT IN CENTRAL GODOWNS

*238. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of rice in the Central Government godowns at Manmad (Maharashtra) was found spoilt in 1965;

(b) if so, what was the exact quantity of rice spoilt; and

(c) what were the causes for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) to (c) No rice was found spoilt in the Central Government godowns at Manmad during 1965. A quantity of about 8-4 tonnes of rice was, however, received in this Depot during the year in spoilt condition. The damage had occurred during transit of this rice by rail.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know at what stage it was discovered that so much rice was spoilt?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON: This was discovered in 1965.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: May I ask, Sir, where exactly this rice got spoilt? Was it before the rice was collected or was it on the way? Generally, I understand there is a lot of time taken before they take the rice from the ship or from the harbour and they also sell it in the black-market. So I want to know whether the delay in collecting the rice caused the damage to the rice.

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON: In this case the information is that this was spoilt in transit.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA: Transit from where?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON: In the train.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if it is not a fact that this spoilt rice was sold in auction to certain merchants and it was found that really it was not spoilt but it was simply sold at a lower price to those merchants? It is also said that an investigation was ordered on the initiative of the Speaker of the Maharashtra State Assembly. Is that a fact? If so, may I know the result of that investigation?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It is a small quantity of 8'4 tonnes. I do not think any manipulation could have taken place. Anyhow, since the hon. Member mentions about an investigation ordered by the Speaker of Maharashtra . . .

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: At the initiative of the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Yes. Yes. I shall find out what are the facts.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: May I know, Sir, whether these are godowns that are built according to specifications, or are they

ready-made ones which the Government hired because they were available?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: They are Government built, according to specifications.

श्री बाबा साहेब सावनेकर : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से जान सकूंगा कि जब अन्न की परिस्थिति ऐसी विकट है, स्टारवेशन हो रहा है, तो इसके बारे में जांच कर के क्या किसी को सजा दी जायगी ताकि आइन्दा ऐसा काम न हो ? चाहे इसका कारण गोदाम हो या रेलवे हो, मैं सरकार से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि इन्वेस्टिगरी कर के गुनाहगारों को सजा देनी चाहिए ।

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In transactions like these a small quantity of 8-4 tonnes spoilt during transit, I think, should be considered normal. I may add for the information of the hon. Member that during 1964-65 the storage loss has been reduced to - 2 per cent, which is really a significant figure.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: If this spoilt rice was sold, may I know how it was sold and to whom it was sold?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Generally it is auctioned and when it is not fit for human consumption steps are also taken to ensure that it is not sold as foodgrain but is used for starch-making and other commercial purposes.

आम के पेड़ों की बीमारियों के सम्बन्ध में अनुसन्धान

*239. श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया : क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्री 14 दिसम्बर, 1964 को राज्य सभा में तारोक्त प्रश्न संख्या 578 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे,

जिसमें यह कहा गया है कि आम के पेड़ों पर लगने वाले फूलों के मुरझाने की बीमारी पर नियंत्रण करने के सम्बन्ध में सहारनपुर तथा दिल्ली स्थित भारतीय कृषि अनुसन्धान संस्थानों में अध्ययन हो रहा है, और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कथित अध्ययन कब आरम्भ किया गया था ; और

(ख) अध्ययन के परिणाम क्या निकले ?

†[RESEARCH ON DISEASES OF MANGO TREES

*239. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 578 in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 1964 wherein it has been stated that studies were under way for controlling the disease of withering of flowers growing on mango trees in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute located at Saharanpur and Delhi and «tate:

(a) when the said studies were undertaken; and

(b) what were the results of the studies]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The studies were undertaken in June 1962. The studies at Saharanpur have, however, since been discontinued as it was found that some items of fundamental research had to be undertaken for which the laboratory facilities and scientific personnel available were not considered adequate. A revised scheme which is more comprehensive, is under consideration for implementation at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

†[] English translation.