

SHRI G. MURAHARI : It is incorrect, because I know that they are getting them from the wholesalers.

*154. [The questioner (Shri Yella Reddy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 904 infra.]

*155. [The questioner (Shri P. K. Kumaran) was absent. For answer, vide col. 905 infra.]

SUPPLY OF SUB-STANDARD WHEAT AND RICE THROUGH RATION SHOPS

*156. SHRI B. N. MANDAL : †
SHRI V. M. CHORDIA :
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints from the public against the supply of sub-standard wheat and rice through ration shops in the Capital during the months of May, June and July, 1966; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) A few complaints regarding excessive percentage of chaff and dust or admixture of Dara Wheat with superior Punjab wheat were received during May and June, 1966. There were no complaints regarding rice. Complaints regarding wheat were not received in July, 1966.

(b) Stocks of indigenous wheat were carefully inspected in the Government godowns before being issued to Authorised Retail Distributors. Ration shopkeepers were asked not to issue wheat mixed with excessive foreign matter to card-holders even if such wheat bags were received through oversight. These bags were in due course replaced from the Government godowns at Government cost. Inspection of quality of grains issued from ration shops was made strict.

श्री बी० एन० मंडल : क्या सरकार बतला सकती है कि इसकी जो इन्क्वायरी हुई है वह

क्या किसी बड़े आफिसर के जरिये हुई है या किसी दूसरे के ? अगर बड़े आफिसर के जरिये हुई है तो उन्होंने क्या परसनल इन्क्वायरी की है या किसी दूसरे को अधिकार देकर इन्क्वायरी करवाई है ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : Sir, here the Chief Controller of Rationing looked into this matter, and after the enquiry was made there have been no further complaints.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : श्रीमन्, मैं भी एक उपभोक्ता हूँ उनका गेहूँ का इसलिये मैं भी जानता हूँ मेरे को कैसा गेहूँ खाना पड़ा। तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि ये जो आपने सारी चर्चा की अभी इन्डीजेनस गेहूँ की वह तो की लेकिन जो आपके राशन डिपो पर विदेशी गेहूँ दिया जा रहा है, जो कि पुराना होने की वजह से या अन्यथा किन्हीं कारणों से अच्छा नहीं है, उसके बारे में कोई शिकायत आई अथवा नहीं और अगर आई तो उसके बारे में शासन ने क्या किया ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : Sir, regarding foreign wheat, as I said, this is the first time we hear of any complaint. There has been no complaint whatsoever that the foreign wheat which is being supplied is not edible. But in the light of what the hon. Member has said we can look into it.

SHRI G. MURAHARI : May I know, Sir, whether the Government has made enquiries to find out whether these ration shop owners are not hiding away good quality wheat and in its place supplying sub-standard wheat, procured from elsewhere to the ration card-holders and then selling the good quality wheat at better prices in the black-market ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : If the hon. Member has information to that effect, we will look into it.

SHRI G. MURAHARI : What about the Government ?

(No reply)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : Sir, on the face of it these supplementary questions and the answers given in the Rajya Sabha regarding the main question seem to be very

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. N. Mandal.

simple. But there is a mental torture for this reason. Now if you send your boy or your servant to get a sample of the rice sold from the ration shop, the ration shop man sends you a sample. Satisfied with the quality of the rice when you send your man to purchase it from there, the supply now made is an assortment of rice drawn from different bags, rice of a very poor quality. Then what to do with these shop-keepers? I have got experience.

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : As I said, no complaints have been received. Without receiving complaints we cannot look into it. But in the light of the observations made we would further look into the matter.

श्रीमती सीता युद्धवीर : श्रीमन्, यह राशन की दुकान से दिया गया आटा है जो असली आटा नहीं है। कई बोरियों में यह आटा बेचा जा चुका है। यह सैम्पल में मंत्री महोदय को देना चाहती हूँ कि जिससे इसकी जानकारी की जाय, और यह उस दुकान का एड्रेस है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a private transaction.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not possible to clean the rations, the grains that have been procured from the various markets or places, and bring them to a particular standard before distribution is made because I have seen, Sir, that the American wheat that is supplied is absolutely free of any stone or any dirt or any other admixture, whereas our locally produced grains have been horribly mixed up with so many foreign matter, with chaff, sand and so many other undesirable matter. This is my personal experience. I would like to know whether it is not possible to standardise it, clean the grain, bring it to a particular standard and then put it out for sale in the various shops.

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : This is Government's difficulty, Sir. Just now one hon. Member said that the foreign wheat supplied through the shops is absolutely rotten. And here is another hon. Member saying that foreign wheat is all right, that only indigenous wheat is not sufficiently clean. Even that is now cleaned and sup-

plied after getting complaints in the last two months.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Examine both the positions.

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या वजीर साहब बतलाएंगे कि क्या उन्होंने अखबारों में पढ़ा है कि इस दफा जो फार्म व्हीट सप्लाइ किया गया है उसमें लोहे का पुर्जा भी सप्लाइ किया था और जब मिलों ने गेहूँ को पीसना शुरू किया तो उनके पुर्जे खराब हो गये? तो इसके मुताल्लिक उनका क्या खयाल है?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : I did not see any such report. I will look into it.

*157. [The questioner (Shri Ram Sahai) was absent. For answer, vide col. 905—906 infra.]

चीनी सम्बन्धी जाँच आयोग की सिफारिशों

*158. श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्री 21 फरवरी, 1966 को राज्य सभा में तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 117 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार ने चीनी संबंधी जाँच आयोग की किन्-किन सिफारिशों को स्वीकार कर लिया है तथा क्रियान्वित किया है?

†[RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUGAR ENQUIRY COMMISSION

*158. SHRI V. M. CHORDIA : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 117 in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February, 1966 and state which of the recommendations of the Sugar Enquiry Commission have since been accepted and implemented by Government ?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : The Government have accepted with suitable adjustment the cost schedules recommended by the Sugar Enquiry Commission and have fixed the ex-factory price of sugar on the basis of these schedules. The excise duty

†[] English translation.