

Rajasthan side and also to Jammu. Therefore, out of their daily operational figure of 820 buses they are using only 20 buses for these inter-State routes, for a special purpose by which they feel they would be rendering a good service not only to the city of Delhi but also to its earnings in general.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, many crimes are committed in the name of tourists and . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Mr. P. C. Mitra.

SHRI P. C. MITRA : What are the terms of the agreement arrived at between these private operators and the DTU for these buses that have been lent to them ?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA : Sir, I would require notice to answer that question. But my own understanding is that it is a lump-sum figure and it is on that basis these buses are taken.

REPORT OF FOODGRAINS POLICY COMMITTEE

*299. **SHRI P. K. KUMARAN :** Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Foodgrains Policy Committee has submitted any interim report regarding food zones and procurement system;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations contained in the report; and

(c) the decision taken by Government on the recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : May I know when this Committee was appointed and how long it will take to give its interim report ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : The Committee was appointed on the 15th of March and it is expected that either this month or at the latest in the next month, its report would be submitted.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : Even now my feeling is that this Committee has taken too much time to give a report on such an urgent matter. Will the hon. Minister now consider making some modifications in the present policy of procurement and in the inter-State movements of foodgrains as well as their movement inside the State, because the present policy is causing considerable havoc in the country ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : After having appointed this Committee and after having made reference of this question to the Committee, and expecting as we do that it would be reporting within the next few weeks, it would not be proper to take any decision now.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the hon. Minister advise the Committee to submit its report sufficiently early so that during this present session of Parliament we could discuss it ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : As I said, we are expecting the report this month or at the latest next month.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the hon. Minister to give us some information about the procedure adopted by this Committee? I believe this Committee has been visiting the State capitals and taking the evidence of the Ministers concerned and the Chief Ministers of the States. I would like to know whether there are representatives of political parties who have sought interviews with this Committee and whether they have been given such interviews and also whether their evidence has also been taken into consideration by the Committee ?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : Mainly the Committee is taking the evidence of the State Governments, the Chief Ministers etc. I cannot specifically say whether they have invited the leaders of the political parties.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Some time ago, there was the report in the press that the Congress Party itself took the decision to nationalise the entire foodgrains trade and instead, they should have State trading in foodgrains and this State trading should take over the rice mills also. Now in view of that, what has happened to that pro-

posal? Why has not the Government gone in for total procurement and State-trading in foodgrains and thereby mitigate the effects of famine conditions in India?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : I am not sure, I do not think that the Congress Party took a decision for complete State control in the matter of foodgrains. Now, the entire question is being reviewed by this Committee and some decision will be taken regarding procurement after the Committee's report is received.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : The Government has appointed the Foodgrains Policy Committee and it is awaiting its report. May I know, if, in the absence of its report, the Government has no policy except that of importing foodgrains?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : This is regarding procurement, Sir.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : I would like to know whether this Committee is taking other evidence also. The hon. Minister said that they are not taking the evidence from leaders of political parties.

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : I did not say that.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : May I know whether they are taking the evidence of foodgrain dealers or not, and also whether the Ministry will ask this Committee to get the opinions of the leaders of all-India political parties before they submit their report?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : Sir, there is nothing to prevent the leaders of political parties stating their specific points of view before the Committee.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD : May I know, Sir, whether the report of this Committee will be placed before Parliament and then implemented or whether even before placing it before Parliament it will be implemented?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : Sir, the report will be considered by the Government when it is received.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that food-stuff articles like gram are being sold in certain parts of the country at double the

price that one has to pay for them at the places they are grown, will the Government on the basis of the report of this Committee take a decision soon and do away with these food zones?

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : This is exactly what I said. The Committee has been appointed specifically to report upon the following points: first, to examine the existing zonal arrangement with regard to the movement of foodgrains and systems of procurement and distribution in the country; second, to make recommendations for modifications, if any in these arrangements and these systems to bring about the equitable distribution of foodgrains at reasonable prices between the different regions and sections of the country. After having referred these two points to this Committee consisting of very eminent economists and others, Sir, it would be odd if the Government takes a decision.

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि इस कमेटी ने सब प्रान्तों में घूम घूम कर चीफ मिनिस्ट्रों से रिपोर्ट ली है या एक जगह ली है। दूसरी बात यह है कि दूसरे लोगों से पूछा या नहीं।

SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON : Sir, the Committee is visiting the State capitals and meeting the Chief Ministers and others.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

*300. [The questioner (Shri B. N. Mandal) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1737-38 infra.]

*301. [The questioner (Shri Ram Sahai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1738-40 infra.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

*302. **SHRI JAGAT NARAIN :** Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee set up to suggest improved agricultural implements has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?