

and facts. Therefore we took time, and I beg to say that we will place it on the Table of the Sabha.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has been able to get figures, say, of the Indian Agricultural Institute working at Delhi?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : I would not like to give piecemeal information now. I will give whole information.

RICE IMPORTS FROM ASIAN COUNTRIES

*713. **SHRI G. MURAHARI :** Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state the total quantity of rice imported from Burma, Thailand and other Asian countries during the year 1965-66?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): 397.4 thousand metric tons.

SHRI G. MURAHARI : I would like to know the total quantity that the Government intends importing by the end of 1966 from these countries.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I can give the figures in regard to 1966-67 as such because the programme of import varies. And that is, the total quantity is about 790 thousand tonnes and actual imports up to the 15th August, 1966 is 348 thousand tonnes.

SHRI G. MURAHARI : I would like to know whether, in spite of the imports that the Government would be making during this period, the position of rice shortage in the country is critical. Only this morning the newspapers said that the rice ration in Kerala is to be cut. I would like to know the exact position regarding rice during the next three months.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Madam, I have already stated that the rice position is likely to be difficult during the next two months, particularly September/October, because in October we may be getting some of the harvest from some of

the areas, when the position would ease. But we are trying our best to meet the situation by expediting the imports and also making adjustments between the States.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Are we marking rupee payment for these imports?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : We have to pay them in foreign exchange.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : May I know whether the rice imports from those areas mentioned in the question can be increased, whether they are on rupee basis or we have to spend hard currency for that and whether these rice imports can be immediately increased in order to meet the needs of the lean months? These two or three months are very exceptional and there is going to be agitation everywhere, particularly during these three months on account of food shortage and unless the Ministry gives some definite assurance or commitment, how will the people rest content? Everybody flares into agitation. So, I would like him to make these points clear.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Madam, as I have already stated, we are trying to meet the situation as best as possible, and all the import programmes are for the purpose of meeting these critical months, two or three critical months, and therefore we are trying to get these imports as much as possible during these critical months. But in spite of that if there is any difficulty, I am sure the Members would appreciate that it is because of a decrease in production during the last year to the extent of eight million tonnes. We may not be able to make up those eight million tonnes of rice. We may be able to get only round about—within these three months, including what we have already imported—about 600 thousand tonnes. We have to make up with whatever we have.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : May I know at what rates the quantities of rice have been purchased in those foreign markets and adding up the import cost, to what rate it worked out and what is the difference between the rate of procurement in this country and that rate?

Has that been worked out? And if there is any difference, will he say whether Government will subsidise it and to what extent?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We do not give the figures of purchase price because it varies from country to country and we will be placed at a disadvantage.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the amount paid as subsidy for this imported rice? Is it not a fact that the Government has to spend a very large amount as subsidy to import rice? Will not any more quantity of rice imported bring more burden on the foreign exchange position and under the circumstances will he tell the country in specific terms that any more import of rice will be a ruination for this country in terms of foreign exchange crisis?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is one point of view with which I completely agree. But apart from that, even if we are in a position to pay for this in foreign exchange, rice is not available. Therefore it is an unavailable quantity and so any amount of agitation, any amount of *bandh* is not going to improve the matter because it is just not available, and I hope people would not take advantage of this situation and try to create difficulty.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think we have had enough on this; he has explained the position. Next question.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: Madam . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have passed on to the next question.

इन्कम-टैक्स अपिलेट ट्रिब्यूनल

*714. श्री रघुनाथ प्रसाद खेतान : क्या विधि मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार तथा उड़ीसा (उत्कल) राज्यों में इन्कम-टैक्स अपिलेट ट्रिब्यूनल द्वारा मुकदमों की सुनवाई करने के पश्चात् कितने समय के अन्दर फैसला दे दिया जाता है; और

(ख) क्या ऐसे भी मुकदमों में हैं जिनकी सुनवाई 6 महीने पहले हो चुकी थी परन्तु अभी तक उन का फैसला नहीं दिया गया है।

†[INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

*714 SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state :

(a) the time within which judgements are given after the hearing of cases by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in Bihar and Orissa (Utkal) States; and

(b) whether there are cases in which hearing had taken place six months back but judgements have not been given so far ?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN) : (a) Orders are generally dictated on the same day after the hearing of the cases, but occasionally some complicated cases or cases where some new facts are required to be considered, have to be kept pending for want of time. Delay also occurs in a few cases when the Benches of the Tribunal go on tour and sometimes the cases have to be re-fixed for refreshing facts when there is delay after the hearing.

(b) One appeal has been pending for the last six months due to the difference of opinion between the two Members. This appeal has to be referred to a third Member.

‡[विधि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सि० आर० पट्टाभिरामन्) : (क) आदेश साधारणतः मामलों की सुनवाई के पश्चात् उसी दिन लिखाए जाते हैं किन्तु कभी-कभी कुछ जटिल मामलों को या उन मामलों को, जिनमें कुछ नए तथ्यों पर विचार करने की अपेक्षा होती है, समय के अभाव के कारण लम्बित रखना पड़ता है। कुछ मामलों में विलम्ब उस समय भी हो जाता है जब अधिकरण की न्यायपीठों दौरे पर चली जाती हैं और कभी-कभी जब सुनवाई के पश्चात् विलम्ब

†[] English translation.

‡[] Hindi translation.