

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: What is the number of foreign tankers?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The number of foreign tankers has to be related to a specific period and if a suitable period is indicated, we shall collect the information through the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.

WEST COAST ROAD

*304. SHRI K. DAMODARAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the construction of the West Coast Road in Kerala;

(b) the amount so far spent in this connection; and

(c) when the work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Out of a total length of 198 miles of the road in Kerala, improvements in 160 miles have been completed so far. The work of blacktopping has been completed for a length of 155 miles. The construction of culverts in about 150 miles has been completed. In the remaining sections of the road, the work is in various stages of progress.

Out of 32 bridges to be constructed on the portion of the road in Kerala, thirteen have been completed, ten are in progress and nine remain to be taken up for execution.

(b) Rs. 218.33 lakhs till the end of July 1964.

(c) The work is expected to be completed during the Fourth Plan period.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN: May I know whether this inordinate delay is #86 RS—2.

due to the fact that the project is being executed through the Kerala State P.W.D.? If not, what, is the reason?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: No, Sir; that is not a fact. As a matter of fact, the project was estimated initially to cost only Rs. 10.54 crores but due to escalation of prices the cost has gone up considerably and the provision of Rs. 7.5 crores for Third Plan for the entire length of the road from Panvel in Maharashtra to Cape Comorin has proved insufficient. The total estimated cost stands now in the vicinity of Rs. 23-15 crores and we are unable to find funds to that extent. We cannot blame the Kerala Government for that.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN: Will the hon. Minister give some idea of the expenses that will be incurred for the construction of the project in addition to the expenses already incurred?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: What has been spent already I have given in the statement. I can repeat that; it is Rs. 218.33 lakhs. I cannot exactly say how much more is to be spent.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJ-PYE: How far has this road been built from Panvel to Cape Comorin?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I think most of the Maharashtra sector is complete except for certain culverts and certain by-passes. In so far as Mysore is concerned, the progress is satisfactory but for a detailed statement I would require separate notice.

RICE PRODUCTION FIGURES

*305. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorandum has been sent to his Ministry by the Federation of the AH India Foodgrain Dealers' Association challenging the figures of rice production as given, by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details of the memorandum; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the memorandum?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) Perhaps the reference is to memorandum dated June 20, 1964 as also the letter dated August 6, 1964 from the Federation of All-India Food-grain Dealers' Association addressed to the Minister of Food and Agriculture. In the memorandum and letter, the Federation have not challenged the figures of rice production; what they have suggested is that in judging the increase in production of rice in 1963-64, the comparison should be made not with 1962-63 which was a bad crop year but with 1961-62 which was a good year.

(c) The point that may be emphasized is that despite the poor rice crop in 1962-63, the all-India index of rice prices never ruled so high as it did during 1963-64 when there was a better crop.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know, Sir, what have been the figures of production of rice according to the Government's estimates this year and last year, whether the Foodgrain Dealers' Association has at any time given any estimates of production and, if so, how do they compare?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The production of rice in the year 1963-64 was 35.9 million tons and in 1962-63 it was 31.5 million tons. The Association did not challenge these figures, but what they said was that comparison should be made with the year 1961-62 instead of 1962-63, which was rather a lean year for rice. In the preceding year, that is, in 1961-62, the production of rice was higher, i.e., 34.3 million tons.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: With regard to the production of rice, last

year the figure was rather on the very low side and the Government has given statements a number of times that the production of rice has been extremely good this year. May I know, Sir, what has been the increase? If it has been only to the extent of one million tons, how is the Government's statement justified that the production of rice has been extremely good?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In 1962-63, it was 31.5 million tons and in 1963-64, it is 35.9 million tons, »«* increase of 4.4 million tons. It is a considerable increase.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Due to the recent heavy floods, the production of other cereals, particularly coarse grains, has gone down, but in the matter of rice the production is expected to be higher. May I know from the hon. Minister what percentage increase is expected due to that cause?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: If the hon. Member is mentioning the current kharif season, the reports are good with regard to rice production, but still it is too early to give an estimate.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Are Government aware of the immense pressure put by the foodgrain traders so that the Government may not resort to State trading in foodgrains, as indicated in the Press report today?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It is the natural reaction of the foodgrains trade, because naturally they do not like the Government to enter this field. Therefore, they are bringing pressure for the purpose of seeing that this does not happen.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know, Sir, whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to a specific resolution passed by the All-India Foodgrain Dealers' Association yesterday and which is reported in today's paper that if Government do not give

them complete freedom, they will not co-operate with the Government and that the situation will be worse in the country. If so, what is the reaction and what steps the Government are taking to cope with this threat of the Foodgrains Dealers' Association?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I have explained the policy with regard to the Government's attitude to State trading and also to the private trade. If the private trade does not cooperate, we will have to make other arrangements.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चोरडिया : इस फूडग्रेन डीलर्स एसोसिएशन ने क्या क्या सुझाव फूड सिचुएशन में सुधार करने के लिये दिये और उसमें से कौन कौन से शासन ने मान्य किये अथवा रिजेक्ट किए ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Their simple solution is: Do not have any control. Give perfect freedom to the traders to sell at any price in the market. The law of demand and supply will adjust itself.

SHRI U. S. PATIL: May I know whether the Government has established a statistical department in each district? If not, what is the source of collecting information about production?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There is a statistical department in every State and also at the Centre. It is this department which collects facts and figures with regard to production.

شری عبدالغنی : وزیر صاحب نے فرمایا ہے اگر پروڈیوسر کمیٹی کو آپریٹ نہیں کرینگے تو سوکار کچھ اور انتظام کرے گی۔ میں ان سے پوچھنا چاہوں گا کہ وہ انتظام کرنے کا جو اشارہ کیا ہے وہ کیا ہے اور کیا وہ

اس پر بھی روشنی ڈالیں گے کہ اسٹیٹ ٹریڈنگ میں جو رویہ انہوں نے پبلک منی کا ضائع کیا ہے اس کے لئے کیا ایسے سوچ رہے ہیں کہ آئندہ وہ ضائع نہ ہو۔

[श्री अब्दुल घनी : वजीर साहब ने फरमाया है अगर प्रोड्यूसर डीलर्स कोऑपरेट नहीं करेंगे तो सरकार कुछ और इंतजाम करेगी। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहूंगा कि वह इंतजाम करने का जो इशारा किया है वह क्या होगा और क्या वह इस पर भी रोशनी डालेंगे कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग में जो रूपया उन्होंने पब्लिक मनी का जाया किया है उसके लिए क्या उपाय सोच रहे हैं कि आइन्दा वह जाया न हो।]

श्री शाहनवाज खां : जाया होने को रोकने के लिये तमाम मुनासिब कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं।

SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Mr. Subramaniam told the House that some other arrangements would be made. What is that arrangement, what is that scheme?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am sure the private trade will not take this suicidal step, but even if one section takes such a step, I am sure there will be many others to step in. But apart from that, it is the intention of Government to enlarge the scope of State trading. Perhaps they will be forcing the State Governments to make that enlargement earlier than anticipated.

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER FORCE

*306. SHRI V. C. Will the Minister DEVELOPMENT AND

KESAVA RAO: of COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION b*

pleased to state:

[f] Hindi transliteration.