

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जान सकूंगा कि आपका ऐसे कितने फार्म खोलने का इरादा है ?

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : अभी इंडियन लाक कमेटी में इस सम्बन्ध में विचार किया जायेगा लेकिन यह इरादा है कि इन १४ फार्मों में जो अभी तक सैट-अप किये गये हैं उनमें और चीजें चलाई जायें ।

श्री राम सहाय : ये फार्म कहाँ कहाँ पर हैं ?

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : ये फार्म बिहार, वैंस्ट बंगाल, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र और उड़ीसा में हैं ।

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know what these broodlac farms are, and what are their special features?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually broodlac is the creation of certain insects on which lac thrives, and it is propagated for improving the quality and production of lac.

COMPLAINTS FROM POSTAL EMPLOYEES OF ORISSA CIRCLE

*350. SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from the postal employees of Orissa Circle against the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the complaints; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI A. K. SEN): (a) Yes. Certain complaints have been received from some of the staff unions.

(b) The complaints are generally about the attitude of the Director towards his staff and his behaviour with the Union representatives and the delays in taking action on grievances discussed at the periodical monthly meetings with the staff unions.

(c) A senior officer from the P&T Directorate is being deputed to the Orissa Circle to enquire into the matter.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: How long will it take to conduct the enquiry?

SHRI A. K. SEN: Well, some complaints have already been enquired into. Others which have not been enquired into will be enquired into by a senior officer.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know whether, among the complaints made there is a complaint against the D.P.T. of having telephone connections provided to his residential house?

SHRI A. K. SEN: Not that I know of.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that some members from political parties other than the Congress are trying to provoke the employees to launch a strike?

SHRI A. K. SEN: I have the pleasure of listening to that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the Minister aware that the Congress is not in a position in Orissa to provoke because the Congress leaders are provoking each other by making statements ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question.

SHRI A. K. SEN: I am glad that the hon. Member is conscious of our difficulties.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know if the Government knows that the misbehaviour of the D.P.T. includes misbehaviour towards a certain respectable lady who had come to see him?

SHRI A. K. SEN: I would appeal to the hon. Member not to say 'misbehaviour' but to say 'alleged misbehaviour' because . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Has it come to the notice of . . .

SHRI A. K. SEN: No such incident has come to our notice.

BAN ON RICE EXPORT FROM MADHYA PRADESH TO MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT

*351. **SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has banned export of rice from Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that this would adversely affect the rice position in Maharashtra and Gujarat and increase the prices in those States; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to continue supply of rice to Maharashtra and Gujarat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir. Rice can continue to move by rail from Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra and Gujarat in accordance with the modified zonal arrangement. Movement by road has, however, been regulated under permits to be issued by the Collector of the district from which rice is sought to be transported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Even in normal years movement of rice from Madhya Pradesh to

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Maharashtra and Gujarat slows down during this part of the year. This year due to shortfall in production on account of adverse seasonal conditions, the exports have been substantially less. It is not considered, therefore, that regulation of exports by road will present a serious problem. However supplies of rice from Central stocks to all the three States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh continue to be made.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that due to such a policy there is a shortage of foodgrains in Maharashtra State and that the Maharashtra State Government had approached Central Government with a request to allot more rice to Maharashtra? If so, may I know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to increase the quantity of rice to Maharashtra and Gujarat States?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact, during this year the production of rice in Madhya Pradesh which is a surplus area has been less to the extent of one million tons so that there is, in fact, a high price level prevailing in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Everybody in this House will admit that the purchasing power in Madhya Pradesh is less. So, it was thought, after discussions with the State Chief Minister and the Food Minister, that some regulation might be necessary with regard to movement by road. But that does not affect materially the supplies to Maharashtra. Maharashtra is being taken care of and we are meeting their requirements with regard to wheat and rice.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know whether any rules and regulations have been framed by the Madhya Pradesh Government even for transport of rice by roadways and, if so, what are the rules and regulations imposed?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: This rice zone of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra