

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know what amount of help was given by the Government of India and in what form?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The Government of India gave two grants of Rs. 2 lakhs and Rs. 3 lakhs. The grant of Rs. 3 lakhs was conditional and the condition was that if there was a surplus of more than Rs. 5 lakhs, this grants should be returnable. The fair has returned these Rs. 3 lakhs to the Government.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if any help was secured from foreign countries also and, if so, in what form?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir, no aid from anybody else except the Government of India was secured. Foreign governments of course paid the rent for the space allotted to them.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know whether the foreign governments or the foreign exhibitors gave their materials to the Farmers' Forum after they left the Exhibition?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, Sir, they were given to the Government of India free of cost.

*219 to *221. [The questioner (Shri B. N. Bhargava) was absent. For answers, vide cols. 1340-41 infra.]

*222. [The questioner (Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1341-42 infra.]

*223. [For answer, vide cols. 1337-38 infra.]

RELUCTANCE OF INDIAN SHIPPERS TO TRANSPORT FOODGRAINS FROM U.S.A.

*224. **SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian shippers are reluctant to undertake transport of foodgrains from the

United States of America under PL 480 Agreement; and

(b) if so, what is the alternative arrangements Government propose to make for keeping up the schedule of imports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Though Indian shipping does not at present carry any significant portion of this freight, the Government are not aware of any reluctance on their part.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), this question does not arise.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if it is a fact that the American or other foreign governments subsidise their shippers for the transport of such cargo as food and, if so, whether the Government of India are also subsidising the Indian shippers in this regard?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is well known that in the case of U.S. flag vessels whose freight is higher than that of non-U.S. flag vessels—it is generally double—the U. S. Government meets from its own funds the difference between the U.S. flag vessel rates and the non-U.S. flag vessel rates. We are not aware of any other country doing that, and we are not in a position to subsidise in that way.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Is there any shortfall in the importation of foodgrains on account of this difficulty?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There is no shortfall in the importation of foodgrains because of any shipping difficulty.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know the total amount of foodgrains transported so far under the PL 480 Agreement and out of this, what quantity has been transported by Indian shippers?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: With regard to transportation by Indian shippers, it has not been substantial. It has been mainly of parcel lot quantities of three to five thousand tons per month except for an occasional ship-load. With regard to the total quantity imported, it would come to about 4½ million tons, both wheat and rice.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Why is it that the Indian shippers are not transporting the grains they ought to?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: One reason is that there is a small tonnage of Indian merchant fleet. Secondly, it is possible that the Indian shippers find that the transport of such cargo is not profitable.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that only an insignificant quantity of foodgrains is imported in Indian ships, may I know why Government is not taking any steps to see that Indian shipping more and more enters the field and takes over as much part of the trade as possible so far as shipping goes?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The purchase organisations have been given instructions that wherever possible, Indian shipping should be given preference. In the matter of imports of rice from Burma, it is solely done in Indian ships.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether there are different rates for different cargoes of different commodities and, if so, why is the rate for foodgrain cargo lower, which discourages the Indian shippers to take to this?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We get competitive rates and generally, these rates are more or less uniform. The rates for non-U.S. flag vessels are more or less uniform.

TRACTORS IN THE COUNTRY

***225. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors at present in India; and

(b) how many of them have been lying idle for want of spare parts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) 35,000 approximately.

(b) Sufficient spare parts are being allowed to be imported for the economic life of the tractors. There is, however, an attempt to run the tractors beyond their economic life in view of the current shortage of tractors on account of difficult foreign exchange situation and, therefore, some shortage of spare parts is felt. The precise number of tractors which are lying idle for want of spare parts is not known.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: What is the State-wise distribution of these tractors?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I am afraid I have not got the figure State-wise.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: From my experience in Mysore State, I have found that more tractors are lying idle than tractors that are working. Is it the same state of affairs in the entire country?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I do occasionally hear complaints from farmers that they cannot use the tractors for various reasons. Either they are short of spare parts or those people who hold the spare parts charge them exorbitantly. I am afraid the situation is not happy, I am prepared to admit it. But it is not correct to say in a sweeping manner that most tractors are lying idle.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I give the number of tractors that are lying in the State of Mysore? I just