

**SENDING OF A THREE-MAN MISSION
ABROAD FOR PURCHASING MECHANICAL
EQUIPMENT FOR THE INDIAN PORTS**

*324. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 1376 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 10th September, 1957 and state:

- (a) whether the three-man mission has since been sent abroad for purchasing mechanical equipment necessary for the Indian ports;
- (b) if so, what countries the mission is likely to visit; and
- (c) what is the estimated value of the equipment proposed to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI LAL BAHADUR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

(c) About Rs. 1 crore.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the equipments which are intended to be purchased are to be used for relieving the congestion in the existing ports or are they required for setting up new ports and for the development and expansion of the existing ports?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There is no congestion at present in the major ports. This equipment will be given mostly to the existing ports for their improvement and development.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Am I to understand that they are intended for relieving the congestion in the existing ports?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Yes, but I won't say that it is congestion. In fact there is little of mechanisation of these major ports. We do require many cranes, electrical trolleys etc. for these ports and these equipments

will be mostly for Calcutta and a few for the other ports also.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether this mission is not going to negotiate for the purchase of machinery or mechanical equipments for ports which are going to be developed shortly?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: In the development of ports there are two parts. So far as the construction of berths, jetties, etc. is concerned, that will have to be done locally. So far as the provision of cranes etc. is concerned, they have to be purchased by this mission and where there is shortage of these equipments that will be provided by us after these have been received from foreign countries.

**VISIT OF AN AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION TO
AFGHANISTAN**

*300. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an agricultural delegation recently visited Afghanistan; and
- (b) if so, what are its recommendations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**FOUR-SEATER AUTO-RICKSHAWS ETC. IN
DELHI**

*301. DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD):

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the present number of (i) four-seater and two-seater auto-rickshaws and (ii) cycle-rickshaws licensed in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): The present number of

four seater auto-rickshaws, two-seater auto-rickshaws and cycle-rickshaws licensed in Delhi is 623, 930 and 1427 respectively.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether there has been an increase in the number of auto-rickshaws recently?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There has been some increase, especially in the two-seater rickshaws.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know if the Government has any proposal to give more licences to these two-seater auto-rickshaws as they are very much in demand?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Yes. The State Transport Department had proposed to give more licences to two-seater auto-rickshaws.

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT AND RICE

*319. SHRI N. R. MALKANI (ON BEHALF OF SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI

NIGAM): Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the *per capita* consumption of wheat and rice in our country in relation to that of any other country of which Government possess information?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): Under conditions of decontrol and without a scientific survey on the consumption of cereals, it is difficult to assess correctly the *per capita* consumption of wheat and rice in the country. However, a statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha indicating *per capita* availability of wheat and rice as also other cereals during 1956-57 after making allowances on a rough approximate basis for seed, wastage etc. [See Appendix XIX, Annexure No. 38.] The statement also gives *per capita* consumption of cereals in some of the foreign countries as compiled by FAO for those years for which the information is available.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: What efforts are made by Government to reduce

what is called wasteful consumption of rice, so far as cooking is concerned, so far as removal of bran is concerned? Are people's habits being altered? Is any effort being made in that direction?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: According to the Statement placed on the Table of the House the supply of rice is only 6·8 ounces as average consumption. Of course, it has been realised that more people are taking rice and that is not a very desirable development. But we are taking the necessary steps to popularise the other cereals also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question hour is over. Short notice question.

12 NOON

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

DEATH OF WORKERS IN ACCIDENT AT ROURKELA

2. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an accident took place on or about the 22nd of November, 1957 while ditches were being dug for laying sewage pipes at the plant site of the Rourkela Steel Project resulting in the death of some workers;

(b) if so, what were the circumstances in which the accident took place and what were the actual casualties; and

(c) what precautionary measures had been taken in the course of the construction work against possible risks and what measures of safety are now being adopted to guard against recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. An accident occurred on the 22nd November in the Saecal Sewer in the plant site at Rourkela. Two persons were unfortunately killed. Both the workers were engaged