

there was a very heavy need of these, enquiries were made and it was reported that two cranes were available in Hong Kong. It will give some idea of the demand for these cranes that by the time our officer arrived there, one crane was already sold out.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know how old are these cranes and the estimated price at which the other crane is to be purchased?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It is about 15 years old and the price demanded is £25,000. After repairs and incidental expenses including haulage, the expenses are likely to be about Rs. 6-75 lakhs.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the tonnage of this crane?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It is a 30 ton crane. I have mentioned this.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know-as to what period this crane is expected to work if found satisfactory?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I cannot make a forecast about the future.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TOURIST OFFICE COLOMBO

*372. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength of the Government of India Tourist Office, Colombo, and

(b) the recurring expenditure being incurred by Government on this Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR) : (a) One officer and a staff of three.

(b) Approximately Rs. 39,000 per annum.

مولانا ایم - فاروقی : یہ دفتر کتنے دنوں سے قائم ہے ؟

†[मौलाना एम० फारूकी : यह दफ्तर कितने दिनों से कायम है ।]

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The office was opened in May, 1956, but an Information Assistant was posted in the Indian High Commission in October, 1954.

مولانا ایم فاروقی : اس میں جو لوگ کام کر رہے ہیں وہ انڈین ہیں یا وہیں کے لوگ ہیں ؟

†[मौलाना एम० फारूकी : इसमें जो लोग काम कर रहे हैं वे इंडियन हैं या वहाँ के लोग हैं ।

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Well, I am afraid.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Indian.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know if the number of tourists from Ceylon has increased after the opening of the Tourist Office there?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I anticipated this question. The figure in 1952 was 1,507; in 1953, it came to about 1,900; in 1955, after the Information Assistant was posted, it was over 3,200 and last year which was an exceptional year, it was over 12,000.

RICE SUPPLIED TO NEPAL IN 1957

*373. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government have supplied rice to Nepal so far in the year 1957 and if so, how much?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS) : Yes, Sir.

2,500 tons of rice has already been supplied and another 3,500 tons including 400 tons, as free gift, is proposed

†[] Hindi transliteration.

to be supplied to Nepal during the course of this year.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: What was the quality of the rice that was supplied to Nepal?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The rice has been supplied from the imported stock.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Are Government going to supply more rice to Nepal this year and next year and if so, how much?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No programme has been made for next year and no request has also been made,

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Has it been supplied to any other country besides Nepal?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We have got close and friendly relations with our neighbouring countries and it is only fit and proper that they should be given rice when they are in distress.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: How many foreign countries have supplied rice to India up-to-date?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We have the PL. 480 and PL65 and other programmes also with Burma also there is a deal.

SHRI P. D. HIMATSINGKA: Is not Nepal a surplus area and has it not been supplying rice to India?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: This year, it very has been finding it difficult with its existing supplies. During 1955-56 also, it was finding it difficult and we supplied during those years also.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: What is the price we are charging for the Government?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We are charging Rs. 18 per maund inclusive

of the cost of gunnies, loaded into wagons. We are going to supply 3,100 tons on replacement basis and arrangement has been made to release about 16,000 tons immediately from Calcutta.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that some rice was supplied by way of gift. I would like to know whether the transport charges were borne by us or by Nepal.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We have given 10,000 maunds as gift, ex godown, and they are arranging to lift them, immediately from Calcutta.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is it Indian rice or imported rice?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He said it already.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We have got only imported stocks in Calcutta and some stocks in Orissa.

INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC TIME ANSWERING DEVICE IN BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

•374. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an automatic time answering device is proposed to be installed in Bombay and Calcutta before the end of this year; and

(b) if so, whether it will be accurate to the second?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR) : (a) It would not be possible to do so before the end of the year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: May I know from which part of the world this special equipment has been ordered?