

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 24th February 1955

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*26. [For answer, vide col. 317 infra.]

SURPLUS RICE IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

27. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly 12 lakh bags of rice are lying surplus in the godowns in Travancore-Cochin for the last one year;

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained any report from the State Government in this connection; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) At present the State Government hold stocks of about 70,000 tons of rice.

(b) and (c). The Government of Travancore-Cochin have requested the Government of India to take over these stocks, in pursuance of the assurance given at the time of decontrol and arrangements are being made to comply with this request.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is there any proposal on the part of the Central Government to purchase this surplus stock at a reasonable price, now that the prices have come down enormously?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: This question refers to the old stock lying with the Travancore-Cochin Government and we have agreed to take it back and we are making proper arrangements for that.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, the reason put forward by the Travancore-Cochin Government why such huge quantities of rice were kept in store and why they were not distributed in time?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It is not a huge stock and in normal times it could meet only two months' demand of the State. So in case something happens, some time of emergency, we have to keep a stock of two months' supply and this was there in their godowns. But now conditions have improved and there is no space in the godowns and so they are asking us to take it away.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is it a fact that this rice is unfit for human consumption?

(No reply)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How long has this stock of rice been lying there?

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Sir, I want an answer to my question, from the Deputy Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is: 'Is it a fact that that rice is not fit for human consumption?'

SHRI A. P. JAIN: It is very fit for human consumption.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Has the Government of Travancore-Cochin paid for this rice?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: They have paid for it and we are going to pay for it.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: At the same price or at a reduced price?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: On a no-profit, no-loss basis. They will incur no loss on that account.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How long has this rice been lying in their godowns?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Only for the last three or four months.