

completing the portion already built, or a substantial part of it, after working out the traffic prospects.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, it is true that we were advised that the construction on this particular portion can begin even without completing the surveys because it was expected that it would not turn out to be infructuous in future.

RECEIPT OF BURMA RICE

*588. **SHRI V. K. DHAGE:** Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when the first consignment of Burma rice is expected to arrive in India; and

(b) what is the total quantity of such rice expected to be received this year?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) The first consignment is expected about 8th May 1954.

(b) Nine lakh tons.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, what is the method of payment for this?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That has been announced in the statement made by the Finance Minister on the floor of the House.

श्री कन्हैयालाल डी० वैद्य : क्या इस मुल्क में चावल की पैदावार इस साल इतनी कम है कि बर्मा से आपको चावल मंगाना पड़ा ?

†[**SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA:** Has the harvest of rice in the country been so poor this year that you had to import it from Burma?]

श्री रफी अहमद किदवाई : नहीं, पैदावार तो कम नहीं है, लेकिन लोगों को इत्मीनान दिलाने के लिए और मुल्क में कुछ हिस्से ऐसे हैं जहाँ कि वह चावल पसन्द किया जाता है उनको देने के लिए मंगाया है ।

†[**SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI:** No, the harvest has not been poor, but it has been imported to create confidence among the people and to supply it to those parts of the country where people like it.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the Government is proposing to export rice from India?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Yes. Even before the war India used to import about 17 lakh tons of rice from Burma and used to export about 2½ lakh tons of rice of the Indian quality which was popular outside. Now, that our production has gone up, we are resuming our export trade in rice.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Government explain why is it that they import 9 lakh tons of rice from Burma and export 5 lakh tons?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: We are not exporting five lakh tons. Just now we have got a surplus of five lakh tons. As I said, even before the war about 2½ lakh tons of rice we used to export, particularly Bengal and U.P. rice, and we used to import about 17 lakh tons. Now, that our production has gone up, we will not be importing 17 lakh tons but only 9 lakh tons this year. And our imports during the next year will depend upon the production in that year.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: At what prices are they going to export this rice?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: At the prices which we can possibly get.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What price does the Government expect to get?

†English translation.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI We will be getting a higher price than we are paying to Burma

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY Is it not a fact Sir, that apart from the quality rice that was usually being exported to Western countries the Government are considering exporting coarse rice from Assam this year?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI This year many of our States do not know what to do, because the prices are lower and ample stocks are available in the free market. But I do not think we will be able to export any coarse rice this year. If we can do it I will be happy.

مولانا ایم - فاروقی - کیا میں
پوچھ سکتا ہوں کہ کن کونٹریز کو
ایکسپورٹ کیا جائیگا؟

†[MOULANA M FARUQI May I know to which countries it would be exported?]

श्री रफी अहमद किदवई जिन कंट्रीज
को जरूरत होगी ।

†[SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI To those countries which require it]

مولانا ایم - فاروقی - کیا ان کونٹریز
سے کچھ آرڈر آئے ہیں -

†[MOULANA M FARUQI Have any offers been received from such countries?]

श्री रफी अहमद किदवई आफर नही
आये है, इन्वारी आई है ।

†[SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI No offers have been received, they have made enquiries]

SHRI P SUNDARAYYA If the State Governments do not know what to do with their rice, will the Central Government pass on the suggestion to them that they could distribute it freely among the hungry millions?

†English translation

SHRI H P SAKSENA Am I right in thinking that the figures of rice imports that the hon Minister gave related to the undivided India?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI Yes. We have lost some portions of the country where rice production was higher than the requirements of those areas.

DR SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND The hon Minister said that we would be getting a higher price from the countries which would buy from us. Does the reply mean that those countries cannot buy rice direct from Burma?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI As I said, they prefer our finer quality of rice.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU May I know, Sir, whether this rice from Burma has been purchased only with a view to set off the amount of debt due by the Burma Government to our Government, since there was no other go for our Government to get the money from Burma?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI We have always been importing from Burma.

MR CHAIRMAN Is it to adjust the accounts?—he asks.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI That is wrong because as I said our requirements depend always upon our rice supplies from Burma. There are areas in this country which prefer that rice. Therefore to cater to their demands we have to import this rice.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU Has any cash been paid to the Burma Government?

MR CHAIRMAN That question has already been raised.

DR D H VARIAVA When are they going to abolish the inter State movement of rice in India?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: The inter-State movement is not going to be abolished, because the position is very delicate. If we abolish the inter-State movement, the rice prices will collapse. Therefore, it will be done gradually.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: In view of the scarcity conditions in some parts of China, is it a fact that the Government of India are negotiating to sell some rice to China?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: We will be quite prepared to sell rice to China if they require it. But we do not know if they really need it.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether the Government is importing rice from Burma not for the benefit of this country but for business purposes?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: The hon. Member may know that when there was a shortage of Burma rice in Travancore, we had to borrow Burma rice from Ceylon and supply them our old rice. And now the rice is available in ample quantities and everyone likes to have rice of his own taste.

9 A.M.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BIHAR FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*589. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any financial grants to the Bihar Government this year for the development of agriculture; and

(b) whether Government have any machinery to ensure that the sums so allocated are spent for the purposes for which they are intended?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes, Sir. Grow-More Food Schemes involving a loan of Rs. 103.39 lakhs and a grant of Rs. 20.37 lakhs have so far been accepted for 1954-55.

(b) The utilisation of the funds for the purposes for which they are sanctioned is entirely the State Government's responsibility.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE MISSION

*590. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a U.S. Agricultural Trade Mission had any talks with the Government of India recently; and

(b) if so, what was the nature of the talks?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes.

(b) The discussions were purely of an exploratory nature and related to the exchange of agricultural commodities between India and U.S.A.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is it true, Sir, that the U.S. Mission which came here offered to sell two million dollars worth U.S. surplus wheat?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It did not come to sell, Sir. There was no definite deal. It was essentially an exploratory mission.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: For selling their products, Sir?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They had certain surpluses which they were anxious to sell, and we also pointed out to them whatever we had got to offer to America. They wanted to find out what were the things which we could offer and what were the articles which they could offer.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Could we have some information as to what are the articles that we can offer to them? What are the articles which the Government of India have indicated to them that they can offer?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We offered them, Sir, jute goods, shellac, mica and tobacco.