

income is Rs. 5 lakhs but it is due to the introduction of air-conditioned coaches whose cost is tremendously high. I should like to know what is the additional cost?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not a question of its being tremendously high or anything like that, but it certainly costs more than a first class coach to construct an air-conditioned<sup>1</sup> coach. I do not know what further information my hon. friend is seeking.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: In how many trains have the air-conditioned coaches been attached?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have got a list of those trains—Frontier Mail, Delhi-Calcutta Mail and so on.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY Will the Government give proper attention to the matter of providing reservation for ladies who travel in trains?

(No reply.)

#### AGREEMENT WITH BURMA FOR IMPORT OF RICE

\*235. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently entered into an agreement with the Government of Burma for the purchase of rice; and

(b) if so,

(i) the actual amount of rice; and (ii) the quality of rice to be purchased under the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, but the details have not yet been finalised.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: After this reply was sent, details have been finalised and we have negotiated for the purchase of 9 lakh tons of rice to be supplied to the deficit States. The

only two deficit States where people are not getting their full requirements of rice are Bombay and Travancore-Cochin, and Calcutta city also. We have placed at the disposal of those State Governments sufficient quantities of rice to be sold to the consumer in whatever quantities he wants to consume.

مولانا ایم فاروقی : کیا گورنمنٹ اس چیز سے مطمئن ہے کہ اس قیمت پر دوسری جگہ سے اسکو حاصل نہیں ہو سکتا ہے ؟

t [MOULANA M. FARUQI: Are Government satisfied that they can not get it from other places at this rate?]

श्री रफी अहमद किदवाई : गवर्नमेंट इस बारे में दो वर्ष से कोशिश कर रही है और अभी तक कहीं से भी हमें कम कीमत पर चावल की इच्छा नहीं है ।

USHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Government have been making efforts in this connection for the last two years and no information regarding availability of rice at lower rates from any other place has been received.]

مولانا ایم - فاروقی : کیا کوئی خاص آرگنائزیشن ہے جو وہاں سے آئے ہوئے چاول کی کوالٹی کو دیکھے ؟

t[MOULANA M. FARUQI: Is there any special organisation to test the quality of imported rice?]

श्री रफी अहमद किदवाई : इस तरह के आरगनाइजेशन हर जगह पर हैं जो कि इन्स्पेक्शन करता है और जब क्वालिटी खराब पाता है तो उसको रिजेक्ट कर देता है ।

f[SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Everywhere there are organisations

fEnglish translation.

which carry on inspection and when they find that the quality is bad, they reject it.]

مولانا ایم - فاروقی : کیا گورنمنٹ اس بات پر غور کریگی کہ بورما گورنمنٹ پر ہندوستان کا جو بہت بڑا قرضہ ہے اس میں اس کی قیمت منجورا ہو اور اپنے پاس سے کچھ نہ دینا پڑے ؟

[MouLANA M. FARUQI: Will the Government of India see that the Government of Burma deducts the price of rice from the huge sum of money which Burma owes to India and that it pays no money out of its own pocket?]

श्री रफी अहमद किदवाई : यह तो फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब ही तय कर सकते हैं कि किस तरह से चावल की कीमत अदा की जाय ।

USHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: It can only be decided by the Finance Minister as to how the price of rice should be paid.]

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know the price at which the rice will be supplied to the deficit States and the price at which it will be sold?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: The -price is £50 for the current year. We have contracted for these 9 lakh tons on the basis of supplies in three years, leaving it to the option of the Burma Government to supply in any year. For the current year the price will be £50 per ton; in the next year £48 and in the third year £46. The average price—the whole quantity is being supplied this year—will be £48 per ton.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: May I know whether the rice which the Government is getting under this agreement from Burma is the stock of the earlier part of 1952-53 and not of the latest crop?

fEnglish translation.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I hope the hon. Member knows that in many parts of this country the older the rice the more popular it is.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: May I know, Sir, that this particular rice could not be sold by the Burmese Government and it has been offered for far less than £50?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I was approached by several enterprising persons offering to me at £35, £36, £40 and £42, but nobody was able to supply and therefore we had to get this. The rice trade in Burma is Government's monopoly and it is they who fix the price.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is this price f.o.r. Indian rjorts or is it f.o.r. Rangoon?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Tt is not f.o.r. It is f.o.b. and' it can only be Burma ports.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know, Sir, when this rice comes to India from Burma, what will be the cost per maund?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Anybody can calculate the cost per maund, but we will be selling it at a lower price than that at which rice is being sold in different States today.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: May I know, Sir, whether as a result of this agreement rationing in Bombay will be lifted?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I have said that I have placed at the disposal of the Bombay State sufficient quantities to enable the consumer to consume whatever quantity he likes to consume.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Has the Government's attention been drawn to a Press report that this agreement is not on the basis of economic policy or on the basis of food considerations, but is based on political considerations?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I do not know what are the considerations.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: My question was only whether the Government's attention was drawn to the Press report?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: In Press reports so many things appear. But, as I said, I have been thinking of building up a reserve of 10 lakh tons in this country so as to be sure of supplies of rice even if our crops should fail. There are only two deficit States now—Travancore-Cochin and Bombay—and therefore this imported rice will be supplied to these two States. Whatever rice is available in the surplus States will be taken over by the Central Government for building up the stock and we hope by this method we will be able to have one million tons of rice in our stock so that we may be sure of the future supplies of rice.

#### BONE DIGESTER

\*236. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a new type of bone digester for the use of agriculturists; and

(b) if so, what is its cost and capacity?

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

(b) Cost: About Rs. 2,500 with accessories.

Capacity: About 1,000 lbs. of bones can be cooked per day in 8-9 hours working.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Can these machine's be made in villages by village artisans?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is fairly simple, but I don't think it can be

done by anybody and everybody; it will require some skill.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Where is this, being manufactured?

DJ&. P. S. DESHMUKH: The manufacture has just begun; I could not give you the names of the places.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Where can the villagers get these machines from?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The Government are making arrangements to supply these machines to the villagers.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: What is the difference in price between the bone-meal made from these digesters and that made in bone mills?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I do not think there will be any difference in price between these two; they will be of the same price.

\*237. [For answer, vide cols. 1988—1989 infra.]

#### RAILWAYS SUPPLIED TO THE EASTERN-RAILWAY

\*238. DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new rails supplied to the Eastern Railway during the years from 1950 to 1953 and laid on the narrow gauge section of that railway zone have worn out abnormally;

(b) whether the rails were subjected to any chemical analysis; if so, what was the result of the analysis;

(c) whether the rails were supplied by any Indian firm; if so, the name of the firm;

(d) how the life and quality of steel of the rails supplied by that firm compare with the life and quality of steel of the rails imported from abroad; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the expenditure on track renewals necessitated by the supply of such poor quality of rails?