

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that the mine owners can, if they like, purchase the rice separately from the open market and not through the pool?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Under the rules of this pool, all coal miners who receive their supplies from the pool are required to deposit cash securities on the basis of the average monthly consumption of food grains; but the non-participating members, *i.e.* the collieries who are not represented in the pool and as such do not advance any security, are charged Re. 1 per maund.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Who charges that Re. 1 per maund?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The common pool—this organisation—will charge it.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: My question has not yet been answered. My question is, whether the mine owners can, if they like, purchase the rice from the open market and not through the pool.

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We need not now think of the past. Now that the food position has very much improved, both in Bihar and in West Bengal; they are free to buy in the open market. There are collieries which are purchasing in the open market the rice that comes from Nepal.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: But my question is different. Am I to understand, in the first place, that this condition no longer exists? And secondly, I want to know if the pools are still functioning, if the coal-mine owners have only to purchase rice through these pools, or can they purchase it without the pool, in the open market?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We have imposed no condition that the purchases of the mine owners should be made through the common pools; but for their own convenience, they formed common pools which charge an incidental charge of Re. 1 or so from people who had not advanced cash securities to the common pool. They are charged this extra rate. But these things arise only when there is the

question of getting supplies from Government. But as I said, the food position has very much improved now and they are allowed to buy in the open market and there would be hereafter no condition that they should be in the pool at all.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the hon. Minister kindly clarify what he means by "hereafter?". What is the position at present? Have the mine owners to buy through the pool or has that condition been waived at the moment?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Except these collieries in Bihar, the others have been allowed to purchase in the open market. Hitherto they were not free to purchase in the open market, because if these big buyers come in and there are big purchases that might upset the market. When big purchasers come to the market, naturally prices go up and the market is upset. We were not allowing this and we were giving them supplies from the Government. Hereafter, since conditions have improved a great deal.....

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What is this "hereafter"?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hereafter means from the present; and from the present means hereafter.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: He says this concession is already there, this

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I told you only one or two collieries still purchase from the Government because it is convenient for them to do so.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: It is all very much confused.

EXCURSION TRAINS FOR STUDENTS AND PILGRIMS

*586. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARAMANAND: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government propose to resume the running of the students and pilgrims excursion trains which were run before the war; and, if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : Where the necessary rolling stock is available Railways will consider the running of such special trains.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: That is an indefinite reply Sir. I would like to know when.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not so indefinite. The Railways have been asked to consider the running of such trains as soon as the position regarding coaches improves. When extra coaches are available, they will certainly run these special trains.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: The answer still, I submit, Sir, remains indefinite. Will it be this year or the next year? This everybody would like to know.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Even this year, if there are sufficient coaches for running them.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: When is the position as regards coaches likely to improve?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is a rather indefinite question.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: This being the.....

SHRIMATI SHARDA A BHARGAVA: Does it.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, don't quarrel with another lady. Shrimati Sharda Bhargava.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: Does it mean that if the coaches are not available for some years we will not have these trains for some years to come?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It may not take such a long time as the hon. lady Member thinks. These trains were running in the olden days and there were also concessions with regard to fares and more liberal accommodation was also provided. We cannot provide

this liberal accommodation now. When the coaches are available we will run them again. There is no ban on them. There was a ban, but now there is no 'ban'; it has been lifted and the Railways, as I have said, have been asked to consider this matter.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: How does.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: How does..... yes.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: How is it that Government have been able to arrange for coaches for the sake of the Railway Exhibition, to run throughout India and they would not find sufficient number of coaches for this purpose?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certainly,, we consider the exhibition much more important.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: This being the centenary year of the Railways, will this not be the most appropriate year to make this beginning?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We are making a beginning.

EXPORT OF POTATO FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH

*587. SRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

' (a) whether export of potato from Himachal Pradesh has been banned; and

(b) if so, what has been the effect of the ban on the agricultural population?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) and (b). To preserve quality of Himachal Pradesh Seed Potatoes used throughout the country for potato cultivation, and also to prevent exploitation of cultivators by dealers, the State Government promulgated the Himachal Pradesh Seed Potato Control Order, 1952 on the 16th