

DR. A. R. MUDALIAR : Is it not a fact that this Company has the vessels for the first time from 1947, unlike the other companies which have been in this business for many years and that it is not possible for a new company, with a new set of steamships to suddenly have Indian personnel and that is also not available ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Yes, Sir, it is a new company.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that the Company's policy has gone against Indianisation, especially in view of the fact that some of the officers who start their carriers in this Company are not allowed to carry on in service for a long time ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I don't think, Sir, we have any evidence to support it.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : May I ask for an assurance from Government that if representations are made—the Central Government denies any representations having been made—they will see to it that this Company also accords the same preference as it ought to and as any other Indian company does, operating in our country ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Sir, the Government naturally agree with the principle underlying the question. I have already informed the House that the Government has taken up the question with this Company. This Company has got an agreement with Marconi, who are responsible for the care and upkeep of the wireless system installed in the vessels and the Company has also taken up the question with the Marconis and it is pressing them to make arrangements for the training of Indians so that they may also be employed as Radio Officers.

PRICE OF IMPORTED FOOD GRAINS

*87. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for FOOD and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate per ton in rupees at which wheat was supplied to India during the current year by (1) the United States of America, (2) Canada, (3) Argentina, and (4) Australia and the freight charges per ton paid thereon ; and

(b) the rate per ton in rupees at which rice was supplied to India by (1) Burma, (2) Siam, and (3) China during the current year and the freight charges paid thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to disclose the prices paid to different countries for imported foodgrains during the current year as the disclosure may jeopardise further purchases.

A statement showing the average freight rate per ton paid for wheat and rice imported from different countries is, however, placed on the Table of the House.

No wheat has been imported from Argentina during the current year.

STATEMENT

Commodity	Exporting Country	Average freight paid per ton (In Rs.)
Wheat	U.S.A.	120
	Canada	97
	Australia	44
Rice	Thailand	39
	Burma	35
	China	43

PROF. G. RANGA : Is Argentina also one of the signatories of the International Wheat Agreement ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I think so, Sir.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether the rates of imported wheat will be higher or lower next year, including freight charges, if you are not going to give the prices paid this year ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I am not prepared to answer that.

SHRI B. RATH : Do the Government think that this year's purchases will cost less than the purchases that were made previously ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : This year's purchases cost considerably less than last year's purchases.

SHRI B. RATH : Does the Government think that the freight rate will also be decreased in this year's purchase ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will the freight rates also be decreased in this year ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : It is too early to say, Sir.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it a fact that the Food Minister quoted the price of Rs. 16 per maund in one of his interviews in the newspapers ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I want notice for that, Sir.

SHRI B. RATH : Will the Government please let us know the percentage by which the price will be decreased ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I have said 'considerably' ; I mean, the prices will be comparatively cheaper this year.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : As regards current year's purchases, is the quantity less or is the overall price going to be less ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : The overall price will be less.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : How do the prices compare with the prices of procured wheat in India ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Imported prices are always higher than those for the indigenous varieties.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : May I ask the hon. Minister whether the

Government of India is going to subsidise before it is distributed to the wholesalers and consumers ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I am not prepared to answer that ; it is for the Finance Minister.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : What were the maximum and minimum rates at which the indigenous wheat was procured during the current year ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I want notice for that, Sir.

SHRI B. GUPTA : Is it a fact that the United States has increased *ih* freight charges during the recent months ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : It is too early.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : What is the price charged by Russia ?

(No answer.)

STRIKE IN THE TALCHER COALFIELD

*88. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a strike was started by the labourers of the Talcher Coalfield Ltd., on November 2, 1952 ; if so, what was the cause of the strike ;

(b) whether any representation was made to Government by the labourers of the said company for sending the Chief Labour Commissioner to Talcher for conciliation of the dispute ; and

(c) whether any attempts were made by the junior officers for conciliation of these disputes ; and if so, with what result ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) Yes. The workers are on strike demanding payment of arrears of bonus, cash value of food concessions, wages, dearness allowance and overtime pay due to the workers under the award of the Industrial Tribunal, and