

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all arguing and expressing opinion—whether it will be conducive etc. etc.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Well, there should be some reason. He should tell the reason why

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, but not in the question hour. No arguments now.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : I am not arguing, Sir. I want to know the reasons which made them change the original plan. This was there in the original plan.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I have given the reason in part (b) of the answer. The broad gauge section of the ex-B. B. & C. I. Railway was decided to be included in the Western Zone, and these two were put in the Northern Zone. This matter was fully gone into before these zones were formed.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Is it not a fact, that the Financial Commissioner visited Jodhpur and submitted his report that Jodhpur should be the headquarters of this zone ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Along with Jodhpur, Ajmer and Jaipur were also considered and because the decision was different, it was given up.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : What was the report of the Financial Commissioner on this question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What was the report of the Financial Commissioner ? He asks. You are aware only of the final decision, and not of the interim report.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Yes, Sir. You are right.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Sir, you are going to the assistance of the hon. Minister.

AID FROM U. S. S. R. FOR RELIEF WORK IN SOUTH INDIA

*252. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of aid in cash and kind received from the Central Council of Trade Unions in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics for relief work in Southern India ;

(b) the arrangements made in India for the distribution of such aid ;

(c) what is the allocation of such aid between the different areas in Southern India ;

(d) whether grain received through such aid is being utilised to run gruel kitchens ;

(e) if the answer to part (i) be in the affirmative, whether any new gruel kitchens have been started for the purpose; if so, how many and where;

(f) whether any portion of such grain is being sold away at small shops or elsewhere ; and

(g) whether it is a fact that the Government of Mysore or other authorities have decided to utilise two-thirds of such aid of payment of wages for famine relief construction works ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA) : (a) 10,000 tons of wheat, 5,000 tons; of rice, 500,000 tins of condensed milk and a sum of Rs. 255,000.

(f) With the consent of the donors, the gifts were passed on to the Indian Red Cross Society who are distributing the same.

(c) Madras—) 5500 tons Wheat. 65
per cent. 100 tons Rice.
3,25,000 Milk tins.

Mysore—	}	2000 tons Wheat.
20 per cent		1000 tons Rice.
		1,00,000 Milk tins.
Hyderabad—	}	1500 tons Wheat.
15 per cent.		750 tons Rice.
		75,000 Milk tins.

The gift in cash would be utilized by the Indian Red Cross Society for purchasing additional foodgrains, clothing etc. for distribution in the scarcity art as of Madras, Mysore arid Hyderabad. Distribution will be in the same proportion as above viz. Madras 65 per cent., Mysore 20 per cent, and Hyderabad 15 per cent.

(d) Yes, in Madras and Mysore States.

(e) In Madras the grains are being utilised mainly at the existing gruel centres. 56 additional gruel centres have also been opened—& at Bellary, 3 at Coimbatore, 3 at Nellore, 35 at North Arcot, 3 at South Arcot and 4 V Salem. In Mysore in addition to the already existing 41 gruel kitchens, 203 new gruel centres for distributing this aid have been opened mostly in the affected districts of Chitaldrug, Kolar and Tumkur. "

(f) No.

(g) No.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Is it a fact that two-thirds of the gifts supplied to the Mysore Government is being utilised to give wages to workers working in the community projects and other famine construction work ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : The reply to this question that I have already given is "No." In Mysore there are some people who think it below their dignity to receive the thing by going to the gruel centre and accepting the gift. But they are in distress all the time because of the continuous failure of rains for the last four years and they want help. They are however prepared to work in the community project

works and in the common works like the digging of drinking wells, construction of approach roads etc. for the village and accept foodgrains. Therefore this is distributed to them. This is not being considered, as work extracted from them for the gift that they get. When the people in the scarcity area, in the scarcity village are formed into a committee, the gifts are given to the committee and the committee in turn carry out these works and also run the gruel centres. They distribute these things to the infirm and the children and also to those who work in these items that I referred to. That is what is being done in Mysore.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Even if there are some people like that, is it not the duty of the Government to provide them with employment and pay them from the government's own coffers ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : We are doing that. We are having number of relief works and some Rs. 60 lakhs have been spent on these works. But instead of encouraging laziness, if people are voluntarily making use of these gifts and working for the common purpose of the whole village, apart from distributing the gifts to the infirm and the children, that is something our Communist friends should welcome.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Is it not misusing the gift if the people are given the gift after extracting work from them ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : I don't think that is true, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is his opinion and this is your opinion.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know who fixed the percentage of distribution ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : An *ad hoc* Committee was formed in Madras with Dr. A. Lafchmanaswamy Mudaliar as Chairman and with the