

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Does the Minister know that the famine conditions are acute in South India, not only in Rayalaseema, and the Government of Madras have spent more than 96 lakhs and is it the intention of the Government to pay only Rs. 46 lakhs ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think the hon. Minister has already answered the question.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : He has not ; he must give more money. That is my demand.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it a fact that the help received from the Soviet Union is being used to run free gruel kitchens in Mysore, Rayalaseema and other parts of India ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I did not quite catch the question, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Is it a fact that the help received from the Soviet Union is being used to run gruel kitchens in South India ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think it is a matter of public knowledge as to how the aid is being utilised.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Is it a fact that in Mysore the grain intended for free distribution is being used as wages ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I don't think so, Sir.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : Will you enquire into it and find out ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : If there is anything really wrong, we will certainly look into it.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know, Sir, whether any request has been made by the Travancore-Cochin Government for relief ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Has the Travancore-Cochin Government requested for any relief ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I don't think, Sir.

(Interruption.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA : Will the hon. Minister let us know whether he is taking any better steps for the preservation of foodgrains ? It is reported that there was a lot of wastage and damage to wheat stock in storage.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order. It does not arise out of the question.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Would the hon. Minister allow us more time to discuss this subject which is distressing the minds of so many of the Members of this House ?

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : We can raise an adjournment motion.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : There has been a good deal of discussion in the other House and I believe, Members of this House also must be keeping themselves posted with them.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know whether the report of this team of officers has been received by the Government ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

SALE OF PLANES TO EGYPT

*28. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether Government have under consideration any proposal to sell planes to Egypt ; and, if so, what are the particulars of such proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : No, Sir, there is no such proposal.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has no proposal been made by any other Government ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I have already said that there is no such proposal.

APPOINTMENT OF "PANIWALA MAHARAJ"

*29. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the salary paid to 'Paniwala Maharaj', the water diviner ;

(b) for how many years he was in service ; and

(c) in how many cases his advice was found useful and in how many cases it was not found to be so ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) The Paniwala Maharaj received an honorarium of Rs. 2,300 p.m.

(b) Two years and 8 months.

(c) According to the information available with the Rajasthan Underground Water Board, 128 sites were selected by the Paniwala Maharaj. Wells were dug at 29 sites and water was found in 21 of them.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Does the hon. Member know, according to the information he has given in the House, it would cost over Rs. 30,000 before digging a well ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a question of calculation.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that the Government considered this Paniwala Maharaj as a great hoax ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is a question of opinion.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the hon. Minister let us know what results were achieved ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think the results were not commensurate with the expenditure.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Who was responsible for the appointment ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH : Who was responsible for keeping the man for such a long period knowing it was a hoax on the Government ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Will the hon. Member enquire as to who is responsible for this hoax and take suitable action ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : All men are liable to make mistakes.

SHRI D. NARAYAN : What are the qualifications of this Paniwala Maharaj, and how did he find water ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU : Will the hon. Minister let us know whether this gentleman who was receiving an honorarium of only Rs. 2,300 per mensem, was an American or an Indian ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Very much an Indian, I believe.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY : Was he paid any travelling allowance ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : If my hon. friend is perturbed about the expenditure, I might add that we recovered Rs. 33,350 from the Saurashtra Government and we lent his advice to others at the rate of Rs. 150 per