

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Sir, out of the 2\*5 millions to be imported, may I know how much of it *will* be rice ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Rice is about 7! lakh tons.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : What are the countries to which you are looking up to toget the 2 ■ 5 million tons ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : All the countries that are exporting to us.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : The hon. Minister said in his answer something about bright prospects for the country. Does it include Rayalaseema and adjacent areas and also the constituency from which he has been returned ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : Well, Sir, it is a big continent ; if there are some scarcity areas in this country, there are places where there is plenty also.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : What is the estimated deficit of Madras for 1950-51 ?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA : This much depends on the North-East monsoon. It has come late and it has set in now. After the end of the year they will be able to estimate the\*deficit.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :  
Next question.

#### RELIEF IN SCARCITY AREAS

♦27. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

{a) the steps taken by the Government of India to give relief to the famine-stricken people of the South; and

(b) the measures that the Government of India propose to take to prevent the recurrence of famines in India ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH, (a) Relief in scarcity areas is primarily the concern of the State Government concerned. On a request made by the Government of Madras, the Government of India agreed to render the following financial assistance to that State :—

(i) to bear 50 per cent, of the expenditure on gratuitous relief in the scarcity areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 48 lakhs; and (ii) to assist the State Government to find ways and means accommodation for subsistence loans and the loans under L.I.L. and A.L. Acts, which they may not be able to finance from within their own resources, subject to an overall limit of Rs. 2 crores.

The question of giving financial assistance to Mysore on similar lines is under consideration.

(b) The causes of recurrence of scarcity conditions in various parts of India differ from place to place. In order to prevent recurrence of such conditions in those areas long term planning is necessary, which would be covered by the plans of the Planning Commission. The Government of India have in the meantime decided to send a team of Central Government officers to the chronically affected areas to make recommendations in this behalf.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, if all the States that are facing distress have applied for assistance from the Centre ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Some are rather quick in applying and some take some time to do so.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, if Mysore has applied for assistance ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes, Sir, and correspondence has been going on with them.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know the reason why the Government have not been able to arrive at the exact quantum of assistance that they are able to give to Mysore.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think fairly substantial assistance has already been given. For any additional help, consideration of the recommendations in the report is awaited.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider giving assistance to Mysore on the same terms as they have given to Madras ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Undoubtedly, Sir, if the circumstances are similar.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : May I know, Sir, if Government consider Rs. 48 lakhs as sufficient relief for a distress which is spread over a wide area in Madras ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes, Sir, I think we have given complete satisfaction. ""

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Is it a fact that the distress conditions in Mysore were almost coeval with the distress conditions in Rayalaseema ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes, Sir, there is some similarity.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Why is it that the assistance from the Centre had arrived months after Rayalaseema had received ?

*(Interruptions.)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:  
Order, order.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think the scarcity itself arose much later and also, the distress did not absolutely coincide so far as the time was concerned.

*(Interruption.)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN\*,  
Order, order.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Did Bombay apply for assistance for the stricken areas ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Not to my knowledge.

SHRI N. SANJEEVA REDDY : May I know, Sir, why the team of officers did not visit the Rayalaseema area when they went South ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I think, because the relief needed was already accorded, Sir.

SHRI N. SANJEEVA REDDY : Is the Minister aware that the conditions in Rayalaseema are very bad even now ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes, Sir, distress probably continues in some parts but it has been looked after as best as possible.

SHRI N. SANJEEVA REDDY: Is there a report from the Madras Government that the conditions in Rayalaseema have become worse than last year ?

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Is it a fact that the Madras Government wanted a minimum of 6 crores to tide-over the crisis and if so what is the amount that has been sanctioned ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It is; always wise to ask for more.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Would the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE impress upon the Planning Commission to allocate more funds to the South because they are afflicted more often ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN-, That is a suggestion for action.

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 IP. 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 ?