

(b) If it is true, will Government be pleased to state as to who gave such orders, under what rules, and for what reasons, if any? Also, whether Government have taken or intend to take any action in the matter?

**Colonel W. D. Waghorn:** (a) The facts are not as stated. On the 27th February some passengers holding 1st class tickets wished to travel by a goods train from Sangla Hill to Lyallpur, but this was not permitted as there was a convenient passenger train by which they could travel, and they were informed accordingly.

(b) Does not arise.

#### EXPORT OF RICE TO JEDDAH.

587. **Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Is the export of rice and other foodstuffs to the Port of Jeddah free or subject to any restrictions?

(b) Is it a fact that during the year 1920 permission to export rice to Jeddah was auctioned per bag and export licences were granted to the highest bidder?

(c) Will Government please state under what rules was such an auction permissible?

(d) Are Government aware of the sufferings and hardships, on account of the high prices the pilgrims and the Indians temporarily residing in Hedjaz underwent on account of such restrictions?

(e) Do Government propose to remove such restrictions and allow free export of foodstuffs under the same conditions as obtained before the war?

**Mr. J. Hullah:** (a) The export of rice from India proper to Jeddah is prohibited, but there are no restrictions on the export of rice from Burma to Jeddah.

(b) Licences were granted for export under a system of competitive tenders.

(c) Under the Import and Export of Goods Act, export may be allowed under definite conditions. It was considered by the Committee on High Prices, which consisted of Members of the late Legislative Council, that the system of competitive tenders could and should be introduced as a condition under which licences should be given. One of the chief objects of this measure was to prevent a rise of prices in India generally and particularly in Sind.

(d) Complaints were received but they were in respect of the limitation of quantities rather than in respect of the prices at which the rice was sold at Jeddah.

(e) The tender system has been abolished and Jeddah is now obtaining its rice requirements from Burma. As already announced, the Government of India propose to remove all restrictions on export of foodstuffs as soon as circumstances permit.

#### PILGRIM TRAFFIC TO JEDDAH.

588. **Haji Wajihuddin:** (a) Are the Government aware that the Persian Gulf Steam Navigation Company was prepared during the years 1919 and 1920 and is still prepared to undertake pilgrim traffic to Jeddah on the single ticket system, but the Government of Bombay refuses sanction to allow it to take pilgrims except under the return ticket system?