

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) 1,93,700 tons.

(b) 1,18,600 tons upto 31st October, 1957.

(c) Rs. 4:02 crores.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Is the Government aware that this particular variety of rice, when cooked becomes so pasty that it is impossible for human consumption?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. Member is referring to the taste of Kerala. There people prefer par-boiled rice to raw rice. But this is raw rice and a superior variety too. It is very much liked in Calcutta as well as in Bombay. It is not quite correct also to say that it forms itself into a paste. Some cooking skill is necessary to prepare it.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: What is the difference between the price of this particular quality of American rice and the Burma rice?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The notional price, that is the price at which we buy from the USA, is about Rs. 31 on an average. But there is a clause in the agreement that we shall have to pay at the rates at which we import rice from the Burma Government and the rest will be subsidised by the United States.

Dr. K. B. Menon: May I know whether the Government of Kerala has declined to take delivery of the American rice on the ground that it is raw rice and how does the Government propose to meet the deficit?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is true that the Kerala State has refused to take delivery of the American rice but it is up to them to take it or not. I can give only what I have.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know whether the Kerala State has suggested the import of rice from somewhere else when it is known that Russia does not produce rice?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No such suggestion has been made.

Mr. Speaker: Is rice a political question?

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: The hon. Minister said that some sort of a cooking skill is required for cooking the American rice. Will the Government be pleased to issue pamphlets to the people on cooking this rice?

Shri A. P. Jain: I think it will be for the Kerala Government to do it.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The hon. Minister has said that there has been a loss of Rs. 4:02 crores. Why have we in this short period incurred so much loss and what accounts for it?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I may say the agreement has to be taken as a whole. We have to incur the expenditure for this purchase in rupees and a part of it, about Rs. 72 million dollars is to be paid for the United States expenditure in India and we will get a grant to the extent of 54 million dollars. Then loan to the extent of 234 million dollars is given to us which has to be repaid in a large number of years. So, if all the clauses of the agreement are taken together and if the fact that has been made by my hon. senior colleague is borne in mind, it will be seen that it is not actually a loss although when the actual cost is worked out, it will come to Rs. 4:02 crores.

Shri A. P. Jain: The loss is a national loss. Although the market price is about Rs. 31, we are paying to the United States at the rate at which we import Burma rice and so there is no loss to us.

Licence Qualifications for Pilots

*298. **Shri Basumatari:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the licence qualifications for pilots and co-pilots have still to be decided when internationally accepted standards were recommended by International

Civil Aviation Organisation as long ago as 1948;

(b) whether it is a fact that co-pilots are not required to hold Instrument endorsement on their licence when at any time a co-pilot may be called upon to take charge of the aircraft;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has not enforced Pilot Navigator Licence on all pilots commercially employed; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 17.]

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether it is a fact that the standard of pilots and co-pilots in the I.A.C. is lower than that of the international minimum standard?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It depends upon the kind of aeroplanes which are used on the two different lines. On the international lines, we have very large aeroplanes, four-engined planes and in the internal services, the dakotas which are mainly used require a lower order of knowledge.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that the I.A.C. has requisitioned the services of one of the high ranking officers of the I.A.F. to be the manager and his first duty will be the reorganisation of pilots and bringing them up to international standards?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The question of raising the standard of pilots has been under examination for some time; the D.G.C.A. has already enforced the rule that pilots will have to undergo instrumental training and such training is in operation. At the same time, the training facilities in the country have also to be taken into consideration and also the need for maintaining the services. The new General

Manager will surely look into all these questions.

Supply of Irrigation Water by Volumetric System

***299. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have studied the merits of supplying irrigation water by the volumetric system instead of the present system of area acreages;

(b) if so, the details of the merits; and

(c) the difficulties in the way of introduction of the system on a wide scale?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It encourages the economical use of water, while, at the same time, securing under conditions of keen demand, an adequate return to Government.

(c) (i) It is not easy to devise a mode of measurement, which, while being reliable, is not readily susceptible to mal-practices on the part of petty officials.

(ii) The success of the scheme is largely dependent on proper and effective arrangements for distribution of water between different landholders and for apportionment of costs between them.

Shri Tangamani: In reply to part (b) of the question the hon. Minister stated that this method of supply of water will really encourage the agriculturists and it will result in greater production also. The hon. Minister is also aware that although the water that will be harnessed up to the end of the Second Plan will be almost 100 per cent more and the irrigated area also is likely to be more, there is no corresponding increase in the production of foodgrains. In view of these facts, may I know whether at least this scheme will be adopted in particular areas as a pilot scheme?