

Shri S. K. Patil: We have sanctioned from year after year for three years about Rs. 210 lakhs, while the West Bengal Government has already spent Rs. 226.81 lakhs. That will be adjusted against the Rs. 70 lakhs which is the amount earmarked for 1957. But, as I said, so far as these particular suggestions of the Special Officer, C.W.P.C. about flood protection in Taki are concerned, if they cost more, surely it will be a matter both for the West Bengal Government and the Government of India to see, and that is under investigation.

Rice

*604. **Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of rice is still on the high side in the Southern Rice Zone inspite of the availability of Kuruvai Crop in Tanjore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any remedial measures will be taken to ease the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). The prices of rice in Southern Rice Zone, though still somewhat high, do not compare unfavourably with certain other important rice producing and consuming areas such as West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam etc. The prices are now steady with a downward trend and are likely to ease down further after the main crop is harvested. The situation is under constant watch, and any further action found necessary will be taken from time to time.

Shri Narasimhan: What is the position since the kuruvai crop?

Shri A. M. Thomas: My hon. friend is probably referring to Madras State. It will be found that the prices have come down considerably during the month of October. In Kumbakonam, it was Rs. 20-8-0 last year during this part of the year; now it is Rs. 18-8-0 in Madras last year it was Rs. 19.87, now it is Rs. 18-28; in Tirunelveli last

year by this time it was Rs. 16, but this year it is Rs. 17-8-0.

Shri Narasimhan: May I know whether the Madras Government have represented that notwithstanding their being in the rice zone, the Madras State itself is loosing considerably to adjoining States without proportionate gain from the other areas of the zone and may I know whether they have asked for any remedial measures?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Yes, Sir; the Madras Government have complained that there is a substantial transport of rice from Tanjore District to Kerala and they have suggested that the export of rice from the Tanjore District should be banned. That is a question which requires consideration from more than one point of view, because there is the view-point of the Kerala Government also. We have not taken any decision on that.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know whether the proposal of moving Nellore variety rice from Andhra Pradesh to Madras has materialised and if not, what steps will be taken to supplement the deficiency?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Nellore rice is moving to Madras.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: At what rate?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is reported that only about 11,500 tons have recently moved.

Shri Panigrahi: The hon Deputy Minister mentioned all the rice-producing areas, but he forgot to mention Orissa. May I know how the price in Madras compares with the price in Orissa?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The price in Orissa is the lowest.

Shri Heda: Are Government aware of the fact that in the delta area of Andhra Pradesh, they are not able to get adequate number of wagons and therefore they are not able to export even in the zone?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There has been some temporary difficulty on account of breaches and there has been loss of capacity to a considerable extent. The millers at one stage non-co-operated with the purchase organisation so that we lost much of the capacity which we could have moved by rail.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know the total quantity of paddy procured from the merchants of Andhra districts after the zones were fixed and announced?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Rice about 60,000 tons.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the Madras Government wrote to the Central Government to seal off the State in order to prevent the export of rice from the State?

Shri A. M. Thomas: My senior colleague has answered the question. If one goes through the recommendation of the Foodgrain Inquiry Committee, it will be found that it is said there that the zonal arrangement has worked satisfactorily and it is not desirable to disturb the zonal arrangement at present.

Delhi Municipal Committee

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*605. **Shri Vajpayee:**
Dr. Sushila Nayar:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to extend the term of the Delhi Municipal Committee which expires on the 25th November, 1957; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the period of extension?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The existing members of the Committee continue in office for the present.

(b) The Joint Committee of Parliament has already presented its report

on the Delhi Municipal Corporation Bill, 1957 and it is hoped that the Bill will be passed during the current session. Pending a review of the position in the light of the essential requirements of the measures to be taken preparatory to the establishment of the Corporation, it has not been considered desirable to disturb the existing arrangements.

श्री वाजपेयी : इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि नये कारपोरेशन का निर्माण आगामी मार्च तक सम्भव नहीं होगा, यह जो सदस्य काम कर रहे हैं उनकी अवधि मार्च तक क्यों नहीं बढ़ाई गई है, इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री करमरकर : उनकी टर्म आज के लिए बढ़ाई गई है ।

Besides this we have no further information to add.

Shri Vajpayee: My question has not been replied. May I explain? The new Corporation will not be set up before March next. What are the reasons due to which the time-limit of the Members now working has not been extended up to March next?

Mr. Speaker: It is extended.

Shri Karmarkar: That reply stands.

Shri Vajpayee: It has been extended for one month only.

Shri Karmarkar: I should not think so. I speak subject to correction; I think it is extended for the time being. I should like to have notice on that point.

Fruit Preservation Factory in Kulu Valley

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*609. { **Shri Hem Raj:**
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any scheme from the Punjab Government for the installation of a fruit preservation factory in Kulu Valley;