

Purchase of rice in Orissa

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*2082. { Shri Panigrahi:
Shri P. G. Deb:

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

(a) whether the Orissa Government has requested the Central Government for taking over fine and superfine varieties of rice purchased by them; and

(b) whether the State Government has informed the Centre about the quantity of rice which is available in Orissa for sale?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The Orissa Government has requested the Government of India to take over the surplus stocks of only superfine rice.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know the quantity of superfine rice that the State Government have offered for sale to the Union Government?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Orissa Government have at present offered 10,000 tons of superfine rice, and they think they will be able to supply us a further quantity of 10,000 tons of superfine rice.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know the price fixed for the purchase of this rice from Orissa, and the procurement target fixed for 1958-59 for Orissa?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The price has not been fixed. It is under negotiation. No target has been fixed. The procurement prices are Rs. 16 for fine variety, and Rs. 16-12-0 for the superfine variety.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Since Government are supplying very little rice to Bihar, will they consider the desirability of supplying this fine rice to Bihar?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): There is no relationship between the purchase of rice from Orissa and the sale of rice

in Bihar. We have fixed a certain quantity after discussing the problem with the Bihar Government,—and we are going to supply it.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: May I know the quantity of rice so far procured in Orissa?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Up to 31st March, 1958, the quantity procured is 41,798 tons of rice and 17,158 tons of paddy.

Shri Ranga: How is it that when the procurement price has been fixed there are still negotiations going on between the Orissa Government and the Government of India? Are we to understand that the price at which the Government of Orissa would be selling it to the Government of India would be much higher than the procurement price? And what would happen to the margin?

Shri A. P. Jain: The position is that the Orissa Government have incurred certain expenses in procuring the rice and in bagging and other things. There is no dispute about the procurement price. The negotiations are going on about these charges.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know the amount so far advanced to the Orissa Government for procurement of rice for 1958-59?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Sanction has been issued allowing them to obtain cash credit accommodation up to one crore of rupees from the State Bank.

Shri P. K. Deo: Is it a fact that the procurement price is the lowest in Orissa?

Shri A. P. Jain: No, it is on a par with that in the other States.

Railway Freight Structure Enquiry Committee

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*2083 { Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 718 on the 7th