

### Rice Procurement Scheme

\*336. **Shri P. G. Deb:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the Rice Procurement Scheme drawn up by the Central Government to meet the food shortage in the country;

(b) the type of Central aid for procurement of paddy to meet the demands of farmers for the next year's cultivation;

(c) whether the State Governments of Bihar and Orissa have asked the Centre for financial aid for the purchase of rice from stockists for adequate distribution to their food scarcity areas; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):**

(a) Rice is being procured on Government of India account in Andhra Pradesh and Punjab.

The Government of Assam, Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Mysore and the Tripura and Manipur Administrations have also been permitted to procure rice-paddy in their respective areas.

(b) Schemes for the distribution of seeds are eligible under G.M.F. Rules, for a subsidy of Rs. 2 per maund. In the States which have to import seeds from outside an additional subsidy of 8 annas per maund on account of storage and transport charges is permissible. The subsidy is shared equally between the Centre and the States. The grant of short term loan is also permissible for the purchase of seed.

(c) and (d) Orissa Government have asked for financial assistance for procurement of rice and their request is under consideration. In Bihar no rice is proposed to be procured.

**Shri P. G. Deb:** May I know when the Government is going to decide to give adequate financial aid to Orissa

to meet the food scarcity prevalent this year?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The Orissa Government has asked for an interest-free loan of a crore of rupees. This is under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance now.

**Shri Supakar:** May I know when the Government of Orissa asked for this help or loan from the Centre?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have not got the particular date before me.

**Shri B. Das Gupta:** May I know whether the procurement price in West Bengal is fixed by the Central Government or the State Government?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** The procurement prices have been fixed in consultation with the State Government. The State Government has suggested some minor modifications and they are being considered.

### Central Rice Committee

\*337. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are appointing a Central Rice Committee;

(b) if so, what would be its sphere of activities; and

(c) its location and personnel for the first term?

**The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. F. S. Deshmukh):** (a). Yes, a Rice Committee has been appointed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha,

[See Appendix II, annexure No. 61].