

societies and a wholesale co-operative society on the Railways.

Rice Godowns in Orissa

*669. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No 377 on the 23rd November, 1956 in respect of the Central Rice godowns in Orissa and state:

- (a) the progress of work,
- (b) when the construction is expected to be completed, and
- (c) what is the estimated cost of each godown?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b) The programme of construction has been reviewed and it has been decided that first priority should be given to the construction of godowns in port areas and deficit areas where imported foodgrains have to be stored Orissa being a surplus State, construction of godowns in this State has been given second priority. The State Government have suggested a revised list of centres out of which we are at present progressing the projects at Khurda Road and Balasore

(c) The estimates have not yet been finalised

Shri Sanganna: May I know the basis on which the Government have come to the conclusion that Orissa State is surplus in foodgrains?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is actually surplus in foodgrains

Mr. Speaker: It is only begging the question The hon Member wants to know the basis to find out whether a particular State is surplus, particularly Orissa Have hunger and starvation been removed, or irrespective of that, there is want of purchasing power? Something must be given in reply to the hon Member who puts a question

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Eighty per cent of the area under foodgrains in

Orissa is under rice, and Orissa has been exporting fairly large quantities of rice to other States, and therefore we come to the conclusion that it is surplus

Shri Sanganna: Is it not a fact that most of the tribal people are non-rice eaters, and it is on such ground that Orissa State is surplus in foodgrains?

Shri A. P. Jain: Even that is an evidence that it is surplus

Shri Anthony Pillai: May I know whether any attempts have been made to correctly assess the marketable surplus of foodgrains in the country since 1951 or during the Second Plan?

Shri A. P. Jain: A very rough estimate has been made by a committee which was appointed under the chairmanship of Shri Krishnappa, but we have not got any very definite figures.

Shri Ranga: Why is it that in the matter of the construction of these godowns, second priority is given to Orissa in view of the fact that they have got already good enough ports, and then those ports are to be developed, and they have got the Chilka lake also?

Shri A. P. Jain: That is why they have been given second priority, and not first priority

Shri Ranga: Why not first priority?

Shri A. P. Jain: Because first priority is being given either to ports or to deficit areas

Shri A. S. Sarhadi: I understand the Government is paying about Rs 64 lakhs per year as rent for godowns in the country In view of this, is it not feasible that the Government should build its own store houses throughout the country?

Shri A. P. Jain: We must always select the best and most suitable places, and that is what we are doing.

Short Notice Question and Answer

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: There are some short notice questions S N Q Nos 3 and 4