

received from the Committee that met last month.

Shri Achuthan: May I know, Sir, whether any time-limit has been fixed for the submission of the Committee's report?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Sir, the report will be coming within a few days.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that up till now the activities of the Central Government regarding family planning have been confined only to one method which is still in an experimental stage and has not been accepted by world experts as efficacious?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Sir, the Member said there is one method of family planning considered by the Central Government. It is true and it is in the experimental stage.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: Are the Government aware that such methods had been condemned by Mahatma Gandhi?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

RISE IN PRICES OF WHEAT AND RICE

*261. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that procurement of wheat was stopped during the year 1953 from the wheat growing areas in India:

(b) the total quantity of rice and wheat procured so far; and

(c) whether it is a fact that prices of rice and wheat rose high in the months of April and May in all the States of the Indian Union and specially in the State of Bihar?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):

(a) Except for U.P. and Punjab procurement of wheat in other States has continued during the current year more or less as usual. In U.P. the procurement was given up altogether while in Punjab monopoly procurement was abandoned and the State

now makes purchases from the mandis and when the market rates are favourable.

(b) 1,150 thousand tons rice and 207 thousand tons wheat have been procured during the period from 1st January 1953 to about 18th July 1953.

(c) April and May are the months of seasonal shortage for rice and during these months, the seasonal firming up of prices was experienced this year also. On the whole, however, the prices of rice in April-May this year were lower than those during the corresponding period of the last year, indicating downward long-period trend of prices.

As regards wheat, April is the peak marketing period and the prices during this month were generally lower than in February-March. In May, the position was somewhat erratic: in Uttar Pradesh, certain parts of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh etc., the prices were generally lower than those in March, but in Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh etc. they were somewhat higher than those in March. In the case of wheat also, the prices in April-May 1953, in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Saurashtra, etc. were lower than during the corresponding period of last year indicating that the long-period trend of wheat prices was also downwards.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know, Sir, the total procurement target for wheat fixed for the States of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There was no procurement of wheat in Uttar Pradesh this year.

Shri Nanadas: What are the procurement prices of rice in Andhra and what are the open market prices that are prevailing?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In the beginning of the season, i.e. just after harvest some districts in Madras State are highly surplus, especially Bezvada and Guntur. The prices then were at par with the procurement prices. But

in the lean months the prices went up. Again they are coming down in view of better rains now.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, whether, in view of the fact that the procurement of rice has fallen short in West Bengal, a request has been received from the State Government for the supply of an additional 50,000 tons of rice?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): They have been supplied an additional quantity of rice.

Dr. Rama Rao: Are the Government aware that the procurement price of paddy in East Godavari surplus district is less than Rs. 20 whereas the market price is more than Rs. 30—very often Rs. 35—for the last three or four months?

Shri Kidwai: I think the hon. Member will realise that procurement is resorted to because the open market prices are high.

Shri Nanadas: How many tons of rice were procured in Andhra?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Rise in prices, no tons.

Shri Kidwai: We still do not have separate figures for Andhra and other parts of Madras.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the reason why procurement has been stopped especially when import is still going on?

Shri Kidwai: Procurement has been stopped in Punjab and U.P. Up to now we had to supply large quantities of wheat to U.P. but this year, perhaps, they will not require because the open market prices are lower than the prices in Government shops and sufficient quantity is available in the market.

RAILWAY CENTENARY EXHIBITION

*262. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenses incurred by Government in the celebration of the 311 P.S.D.

Railway Centenary Exhibition in Delhi;

(b) the total income from the sale of entry tickets, rent from the stalls, etc.; and

(c) the expenses incurred over different functions arranged in the Exhibition in connection with the Centenary celebration or towards the propagation of the Exhibition?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The expenditure incurred on the Indian Railways' Centenary Exhibition at New Delhi is estimated at Rs. 13.45 lakhs. The exact figure will, however, be known when all debits have been received and accounts are closed.

(b) Sale of entry tickets Rs. 2,02,860/
Rs. 4,49,093/11/6

From private stall holders, amusement park and refreshment contractors, hoarding sites etc.

TOTAL Rs. 6,51,953/11/6.

(c) The expenditure incurred on celebration of centenary Day on 16th April, 1953 was Rs. 7,272/4/- and that on the propaganda for the Exhibition Rs. 53,040/-.

Shri Frank Anthony: Can the Minister tell us how much was spent on entertainment?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has he got the break-up?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): We do not have separate figures, Sir.

Shri Frank Anthony: Is it true that the amount spent on entertainment ran into a figure approximating to a lakh of rupees?

श्रेष्ठ गोविन्द दास : यह जो प्रदर्शनी दिल्ली में हुई थी वह क्या सब धन्य स्थानी में भी जा रही है, और प्रगर जा रही है तो क्या सरकार को यह बात मालूम है कि