

PROCUREMENT OF RICE

*583. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what quantities of rice have been procured from different States during the year 1953;

(b) which States have exceeded or fallen short of their targets and for what reasons; and

(c) what quantities of rice have been given to the Central pool by the different States from their own procurements?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House showing quantities of rice procured by different States since 1st January, 1953 upto about the 14th November, 1953. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 39.]

(b) Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura States have already exceeded their targets. As the year has not come to a close it is not yet possible to say definitely which States will ultimately fall short of the target.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 40.]

PRICE OF SUGAR-CANE

*589. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while fixing the price of sugar-cane at Re. 1/7/- per maund for the years 1953-54 and 1954-55, freedom has been given to factories to increase this rate if there is a justifiable demand; and

(b) if so, in which of the States the rates have increased above Re. 1/7/-?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes. The Government fixes only the minimum price of cane. The factories are free to pay higher prices.

(b) The position will be known only at the close of the season.

OIL TANK WAGONS

*590. **Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Oil Tank Wagons for the Broad Gauge, Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge Railways imported or constructed by Railway administration during January to October 1953; and

(b) the number of such wagons proposed to be imported or constructed during the remaining period of 1953?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The number of tank wagons constructed in India or imported from abroad during January to October 1953 is as follows:—

Broad Gauge	... 224
Metre Gauge	... 233
Narrow Gauge	... 10

(b) About 50 more petrol tank wagons (30 Broad Gauge and 20 Metre Gauge) are expected to be constructed in India during the remaining period of 1953. None are expected to be imported during this period.

LOCOMOTIVES

*593. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has placed a large order for locomotives from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the locomotives that are to be purchased; and

(c) the names of the countries with which orders have been placed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. orders have been placed for 480 locomotives.

(b) Rs. 21.46 crores approximately.

(c) Western Germany, Japan, Austria and Italy.