

Postal Divisions

1002. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of postal divisions in the country State-wise;

(b) the number of such divisions in which Divisional Postal Committees have been set up and have begun functioning; and

(c) whether any recommendations have been made by such Committees and if so, what are their broad features, State-wise?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs (Shri Bhagavati): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2486/64].

Levy on Rice in Bastar

1003. { Shri Lakhmu Bhawani:
Shri Wadiwa:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the levy on rice in Bastar has been ordered and if so, the reason therefor;

(b) the reasons for exempting Bastar from levy when levy was first ordered in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the reasons for fixing low levy procurement rates in Bastar district as compared to other districts of Madhya Pradesh namely Raipur and Durg; and

(d) the reasons for not accepting railway out-agency in Jagdalpur as Railhead while the same has been accepted railhead in Korapur District of Orissa and procurement rates have been fixed for railhead there?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes Sir. The rice crop in 1962-63 was reported to have been very good in Bastar District and it was also reported that Khadwan paddy, which was mostly produced in

Bastar District, was suitable for the production of boiled rice and there was no demand for the boiled rice produced in Bastar District in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(b) To start with, the Levy Order was made applicable only to six districts of Madhya Pradesh in November, 1960. Last year it was decided to include Bastar District as well as it was reported to be surplus.

(c) In the Rice (Madhya Pradesh) Price Control Order, different rates for rice were fixed for railhead and non-railhead centres. All the centres in Bastar district were non-railhead centres; prices were accordingly fixed for these centres in the same way as for non-railhead centres in other districts.

(d) In Orissa, procurement of rice on behalf of the Centre was made in the past on a voluntary basis. For non-railhead centres in Orissa, therefore, the Government had the option either to procure rice at such centres or not to do so. For procurement in Orissa, therefore, no separate prices for non-railhead centres had been fixed.

In the Rice (Madhya Pradesh) Price Control Order, different rates for rice had been fixed for railhead and non-railhead centres. The Jagdalpur out-agency was non-railhead centre.

ग्राजमगढ़ में हवाई अड्डा

१००४. श्री विभाज्य प्रसाद: क्या परिवहन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ग्राजमगढ़ उत्तर प्रदेश में एक हवाई अड्डा बनाया जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वह कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा; और

(ग) उस पर कितनी लागत लगेगी ?