

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) No.

(b) Betel-nuts are imported into India from Ceylon, Strait Settlements, Malaya and East Pakistan.

**ASSISTANCE TO BIHAR FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**1011. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Central assistance to the State of Bihar in the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 for the improvement of Agriculture; and

(b) the item on which the amount was spent year-wise?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 51.]

**PROCUREMENT OF RICE IN ORISSA**

**1012. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice procured in the State of Orissa during the current year and how it compares with the last year;

(b) what is the system of procurement; and

(c) the rate of procurement?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Procurement of rice during the current year upto 15-3-1953, the latest date for which figures are available, amounted to 1,37,630 tons compared with 67,949 tons during the corresponding period in 1952.

(b) Procurement of rice in Orissa is done on the monopoly system through procurement agents appointed by the Orissa Government.

(c) The procurement prices of rice approved for 1953 are Rs. 15-9-0, Rs. 12-4-0 and Rs. 11-6-6 per maund for superfine, fine and coarse rice respectively.

**SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN MANIPUR**

**1013. Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to part (c) of starred question No. 903 asked on the 3rd December 1952 regarding Scarcity conditions in Manipur and state:

(a) whether 1402 maunds of rice imported from Assam Government stocks, which were lying unsold there in the State godown have now been sold;

(b) if so, at what rate;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to sell the said rice at a reduced rate and what are the reasons for delay in disposing of this rice;

(d) whether it is a fact that rice is deteriorating; and

(e) the estimated amount of loss caused by non-disposal or disposal at the reduced rate of the said Assam rice?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (d). Out of the rice imported from Assam, there are only 520 maunds left unsold. The rest of the quantity was sold at the subsidised rate of Rs. 15 per maund. The balance of 520 maunds is quite fit for human consumption and is being returned to Assam.

(e) Does not arise.

**TABULATORS**

**1014. Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state how much amount will be allocated to each State out of the provision of Rs. 1,50,000 on account of mechanical aid for vital statistics to Part A States?

(b) What is the cost of running a mechanical aid for the tabulation of vital statistics?

(c) Have the Central Government inquired whether any mechanical tabulators are employed by Part A States for the maintenance of statistics other than health?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) The question of allocation of the amount will be considered by Government in the light of requirements of each Part A State during the year.

(b) The cost of running mechanical tabulators will depend on the volume of work done in respect of vital statistics in each State.

(c) As far as the Government of India are aware the State Governments do not possess mechanical tabulators for maintenance of statistics other than health.

**HEALTH CENTRE AT NAJARGARH**

**1015. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state: