

(d) whether any representation has been received from producers regarding the difficulties which face them; and

(e) if so, the action, if any, taken by Government on those representations?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) A statement giving the latest available information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 156.]

(b) Data regarding cost of production of ginger are not available.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Supply of Rice to Kerala State

**853. Shri Maniyangadan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice agreed to be supplied by the Central Government to the Kerala State during each of the months from June to December, 1958; and

(b) the prices paid for the rice so supplied by the Central and State Governments respectively?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) During June and July 1958, Kerala State was allotted 12,000 tons of rice for each month. For August, 12,000 tons of rice has been allotted on replacement basis. In September, the rice crop will be harvested in Kerala and the position is expected to become easier thereafter. It will however be open to the Kerala Government to continue purchases from Andhra Pradesh, if necessary.

(b) Rice issued to Kerala Government from Central Stocks (except what is given on replacement basis) is charged at the same price of Rs. 16/- per maund as is charged for supplies to other States. The average

economic cost of rice procured from different sources by the Central Government is much higher.

#### Parlakimedi Light Railway

**854. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tickets are not issued at the counters of the railway stations on the Parlakimedi Light Railway line for more than six months to the travelling public for want of stock of railway tickets, with the result that there is a scope for corruption and leakage of huge revenue; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to have sufficient stock of railway tickets?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). It is not a fact that printed card tickets were not issued at the railway stations on the old Parlakimedi Light Railway for more than six months. There had been, however, some cases of non-availability of printed card tickets at certain stations for a few destinations, and blank paper and excess fare tickets were issued to passengers. In such instances, special steps were taken to arrange early supply of printed card tickets in adequate quantities.

#### Seamen Employment Offices

**855. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state how many seamen of foreign origin i.e. Pakistani, Portuguese and others have got their employment through the Seamen Employment Offices of the Ministry of Transport of the Government of India so far?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** The number of seamen of foreign nationality (Pakistani, Portuguese Indians and others)