

tion of the Central Government are as follows:

	(Rs. per quintal)	
	Upto 31-3-67	from 1-4-67
Common	75.52	78.52
Fine	79.78	82.84
Superfine II	84.65	87.71
Superfine I	87.27	90.33
Superfine I (Spl.)	88.87	91.93

(b) Rice is supplied to West Bengal by Food Corporation of India according to the instructions of the Government of India and at the issue prices fixed by the Central Government. The issue prices are—

	Rs. per quintal)
Coarse (for West Bengal)	72.00
Medium	84.00
Fine	94.00
Superfine II	100.00
Superfine I	110.00

(c) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Procurement Price of paddy in Kerala

1865. Shri K. M. Abraham: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the procurement price of paddy in Kerala; and

(b) if not, the steps to be taken to compensate the loss incurred by the cultivators?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the Sabha when received.

Trivandrum and Ernakulam Airports

866. Shri P. F. Kothose:
Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shri Mangalathumadom;
Shri A. Sreedharan:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the airports at Trivandrum and Ernakulam so as to enable the ports to facilitate landing of big planes;

(b) whether Government have considered this in view of the urging necessity for the development of tourism; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) to (c). The runway at Trivandrum has already been extended to 6,000 ft. After the work of strengthening the runway now in progress and nearing completion is over, it will be suitable for Viscount operations.

The Civil Aviation Department has a civil enclave at the Cochin aerodrome. The question of constructing a separate civil aerodrome for Cochin near Ernakulam is under examination.

Expenditure on Import of Foodgrains

867. Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent in purchasing food grains from other countries from the time import of foodgrains began to-date; and

(b) when the regular purchase of foodgrains is likely to end?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Total amount spent (cost and freight) in purchasing foodgrains from other countries during the period 1946 to the end of 1966 is Rs. 2326.09 crores.