

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 therefor?

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.

(b) It is the declared objective of the Government of India to become self sufficient in foodgrains by 1971. The expectation is that it will not be necessary to import foodgrains thereafter.

Imports of Foodgrains

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

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains imported during 1966 and its value at Port;

(b) the amount spent on transport-in transit, storage and its value? shops including expenditure in bagging, godowning, storing, insurance, Railway freight, cartage and handling; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains lost in transit, storage and its value?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Corporation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) The total quantity of foodgrains imported during 1966 is 103.58 lakhs tonnes and its C. & F. value is Rs. 523.31 crores.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 48.82 crores had been incurred in 1966.

(c) Transit and storage losses are assessed for a financial year and not for a calendar year. Even the losses so assessed relate not only to foodgrains imported during a particular year but also to foodgrains which may have been imported earlier and were in the Central Storage godowns. During the year 1966-67 the transit losses of foodgrains are estimated at 18.213 lakhs tonnes valued at Rs. 122.15 lakhs and storage losses at 3.210 lakhs tonnes valued at Rs. 24.5 lakhs.

Airport at Kumal (Kerala)

869. Shri K. M. Abraham: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for an airport at Kumal (Kerala) con-

sidering the importance of Tekkady, the tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in the matter?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A few sites inspected so far have not been found suitable. The Kerala Government have been requested to suggest other suitable sites for inspection.

Calicut Airport

870. Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shri P. P. Esthose:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:
Shrimati Susela Gopalan:
Shri P. Ramamurti:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of an airport at Calicut in Kerala has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to construct the same?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b). The estimates for the construction of aerodrome at Calicut have not yet been finalised.

(c) A site has been selected and the Indian Airlines Corporation are undertaking a study of the traffic potential of this place. The decision regarding whether to construct an aerodrome there will be taken after the results of the study are known.

Ernakulam-Tekkoy-Peeramed National Highway

871. Shri K. M. Abraham: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned to continue the construc-