

starting Public Call Offices in the Sub Post Offices of Babu Barahi, Basopatti and Baheri in Darbhanga District (Bihar) have been examined and the decision arrived thereat; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The proposals to open Public Call Offices at Babu Barahi, Basopatti and Baheri have been examined. The proposal for Basopatti has been sanctioned. The work is in progress and is expected to be completed in about a month. The proposals to open Public Call Offices at Babu Barahi and Baheri are unremunerative and can be sanctioned only on guarantee basis if some interested parties agree to indemnify the loss to the department.

Purchase of Rice in Andhra Pradesh

5509. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AG-RICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which rice is pur-chased in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the price at which it is sold in Kerala with reasons for the difference in the two prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICUL-TURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOP-MENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The purchase prices of rice in Andhra Pra-desh are as follows:—

Variety of rice	(In Rs. per quintal)	
	Purchase price (exclusive of Sales Tax and cost of gunny)	
Coarse	72.69	
Fine	86.42	
Superfine	109.31	

(b) The issue prices of rice supplied from Central stocks to Kerala State as also to other State w. e. f. 1-1-1968 are as follows:—

Variety of rice	(In Rs. per quintal)	
	Issue price (Inclusive of gunny delivery ex-central godowns or F.O.R. destination)	
Coarse	96.00	
Fine	110.00	
Superfine	115.00 (Superfine II)	125.00 (Superfine I)

The issue price of rice is fixed on the basis of its estimated economic cost which contains no element of profit. For the purpose of working out the economic cost, the costs of pro-curing rice in different supplying States, which includes procurement

price of rice as well as various inci-dentals incurred in the purchase, storage and distribution and adminis-trative surcharge and bonus payable to the supplying State are pooled and the issue price of rice is fixed uniformly all over the country.