

do is to strengthen the supervision on area enumeration. We also wish to strengthen the Central supervision on the work of the yield estimation carried on by the State Governments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is he aware that in the past, in Bengal at least, the former Chief Minister and Food Minister had a special Statistician at his disposal and he asked him, according to political exigencies, what statistics of foodgrains he needed. It was done accordingly. Firstly, it was decided what kind of speech he had to make and then he asked him: "Can you make it like that?" Is he aware of such things?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am not prepared to say that statistics are manipulated by the State Governments, as the State Governments are responsible entities. They base their estimates on the basis of statistics available from the Statistical Division.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is the Government aware that on many occasions deficit States overestimated their deficits and surplus States underestimated their surplus production and that is the reason why there is no fair and proper distribution of food in the country? May we know from the Government whether some machinery will be set up to see that such sort of differences do not exist?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: So far as forecasts of production in the various States are concerned, there are differences as regards the estimates of production in the various States and the hon. Member may remember that during the Food Discussion I had said that some machinery which will have the full confidence of the Centre as well as of the States is necessary to supervise the various procedures for estimating the production in a particular States.

SHRI R S KHANDEKAR: It is not only a difference in assessment between the Centre and the State.

It is between the Statistical Departments also. There is difference between the Statistical Department of the Planning Commission and that of the States as well as the Central Departments of the Central Government. May I know if all the Departments have the same organisation to assess the produce and, if it is so, why there is so much difference? Is it not a fact that every Department forecasts its figures according to its own convenience?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It may not be that it is according to the convenience of the Department concerned but there are various methods which they employ but as I have said, I am trying to have some agency which will coordinate the function of the various statistical organisations in the different Ministries and we will have a machinery which will by and large have the support of the State Government and the Centre so that the data produced by that machinery may be regarded as a reliable data by the States and the Centre.

MINIMUM PRICE FOR PADDY AND COARSE GRAINS

*551 DR (MRS) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new minimum prices for paddy, and coarse grains for the coming Kharif season have been announced; and

(b) if so, how it compares with the last year's prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D ERING): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The minimum support prices of Kharif cereals for 1966-67 and 1967-68 seasons

(Rate per quintal)

State	Standard variety of Paddy	Minimum Support price for 1966-67	Minimum Support price for 1967-68
		Rs.	Rs
Andhra Pradesh	Akkullu	38.00	43 00
Assam	Winter Sale	35 00	42 00
Bihar	Coarse	35 00	42 00
Gujarat	Sathu	39 00	44 00
Haryana	Begmi	—	42 00
Kerala	Palghat Matra	40 00	44 00
Madhya Pradesh	Gurmatia	35.00	42 00
Madras	Coarse	*38 00	43 00
Maharashtra	Coarse	39 00	44 00
Mysore	Coarse	*36 50	43 00
Orissa	Common	35 00	42 00
Punjab	Begmi	35 00	42 00
Rajasthan	Suthersaul	35 00	42 00
Uttar Pradesh	Grade III	35 00	42 00
West Bengal	Common	38 00	43 00

*The minimum prices fixed for 1966-67 represent prices for Kattaisamba (medium variety) in Madras and for Dabbansala (medium variety) for Mysore.

(Rate per quintal)

Kharif Coarse Cereal	Variety	Minimum Support price for 1966-67	Minimum Support price for 1967-68
		Rs	Rs.
Jowar	Yellow	38 00	(With suitable discount for red & premium for white varieties) 42 00
Bajra	F.A.Q.	40 00	42 00
Maize	F.A.Q	36 00	42.00
Ragi	—	—	42 00

DR (MRS) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: May I know if the recent rains have improved the prospects of Kharif and the rice production? What are the States that are expected to be surplus and what are the States that are expected to be deficit States?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: With due respect to the hon Member, I do not know how this question arises out of this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I hope this arises. May I know whether it is a fact that rice is constantly being sold in the Andhra market at 73 paise and that there are not enough bulk purchasers? In view of that and having regard to the fact that the Kharif is coming, will the Government permit other State Governments to operate in the market and buy? The West Bengal Government is in a position to buy, for example

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The Food Corporation of India is operating in the various States. In fact the various State Governments can utilise that agency in order to procure in their own States and whatever surplus is available, would be distributed according to availability

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will they allow the other State Governments? They cannot operate in the markets of another State without the prior approval of the Centre. Will they allow other State Governments, like the Government of West Bengal, to buy in the Andhra market at this price when the rice has come to the market but there are not enough bulk buyers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Direct purchases by State Governments? There is the agency of the Food Corporation

MR CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PARADEEP PORT

*547. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to make Paradeep Port in Orissa a remunerative project;

(b) whether his Ministry has proposed to the Ministry of Railways and the Planning Commission to link the port with the mineral bearing areas of Cuttack-Keonjhar district with railways so that the port can have a hinterland of agricultural and mineral belt for export purposes; and

(c) if so, the progress so far made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) Paradeep port which was commissioned in November, 1966, has so far handled about 2 lakh tons of iron ore. To increase exports through this port, ore is being moved from Barajamda/Banspani sector by rail via Kharagpur upto Bhubaneswar and thereafter by road. A railway siding is being developed at Nergundi to handle additional iron ore. The programme is to move about 4000 tons of ore daily to Paradeep from these two points. The Daitari mines are being developed for achieving full production of 15 million tons by next year by the Orissa Mining Corporation of the State Government.

The port is also handling food ships for lightening purposes

(b) and (c) The Transport Ministry had requested the Railway Board and the Planning Commission in October 1965 to provide a rail link to Paradeep from the mineral bearing areas. For this purpose, the Railways have completed a traffic and engineering survey of Banspani-Nayagarh-Paradeep rail link. A decision on this link has not yet been