

- (iv) Restrictions on the holding of stocks of cotton by mills have also been removed.
- (v) Mills have been required to purchase Cambodia (A) and Cambodia (B) varieties of cotton to the extent of 5% of their total quota during the current season.
- (vi) A further export quota of desi cotton has been released.
- (vii) The ceiling price of moglai jarilla with 25/32" basic staple was increased from Rs. 820 to Rs. 945 per candy. Higher prices for other varieties of cotton were fixed on this basis taking their staple lengths into consideration.

"WHEAT SUPPLIED TO KALING FLOUR MILL (PRIVATE) LTD.

236. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat supplied to the Kaling Flour Mill (Private) Ltd., Rourkela in Orissa during the period from 1st October, 1961 to 31st December 1962 by the Regional Director of Food, Eastern Region, Calcutta;

(b) the retail prices as fixed by the Regional Director, Food, Calcutta, for Suji, Maida, whole meal atta and resultant atta to be sold at Rourkela; and

(c) the actual rates at which these commodities, particularly resultant atta, are being sold to the public and other retailers by the Kaling Flour Mill at Rourkela?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) 15,342 metric tons.

(b) No such prices are fixed. It is only the ex-mill price that is fixed.

(c) These ex-mill prices applicable to the Kaling Flour Mills are as follows: —

Suji	. Rs. 58-94 per quintal
Maida	. Rs. 53-58 per quintal
Wholemeal atta	. Rs. 41 • 53 per quintal
Resultant atta	. Rs. 39*52 per quintal

COST OF PRODUCTION STUDIES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

237. SHRI BABA SAHEB SAVNI-KAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating cost of production studies of important agricultural commodities with special reference to prevailing market prices at the time of respective harvests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINCH): The Indian Council of Agricultural Research in collaboration with the Commodity Committees concerned are already conducting the following cost of cultivation surveys:

Crop	Area covered
1. Cotton and crops grown in rotation with it namely, oil-seeds (groundnut/sarson) and cereals (jowar/wheat).	Important cotton and oilseed producing districts of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and Mysore.
2. Jute and paddy.	Important jute producing districts of West Bengal, Bihar and Assam.

A proposal for conducting a survey to study the cost of cultivation of rice is under consideration.

The above studies aim at collecting representative data on labour and

materials involved in the cultivation of these crops as well as their money-equivalents on a per acre and per maund basis.

Besides these surveys, the 'Studies in the Economics of Farm Management' conducted by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, since 1954-55 in certain selected districts of nine States, viz., Punjab, Madras, U.P., Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra, Bihar, Orissa and Mysore have also provided information on the cost of production of major crops grown in the concerned regions, both on per acre and per maund basis. These studies are now in operation in three more States, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan.

Data on prices of agricultural commodities are also being collected by Government.

CONVERSION OF AURANGABAD AIRSTRIP INTO ALL-WEATHER AERODROME

288. SHRI BABA SAHEB SAVNE-KAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state by when it is proposed to convert Aurangabad Airstrip into an all-weather aerodrome?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): Aurangabad Aerodrome already has a cement concrete runway which can be used all the year round.

LAND UNDER BHANG, GANJA, OPIUM AND TOBACCO

239. SHRI BABA SAHEB SAVNE-KAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land are under cultivation of Bhang, Ganja, opium and tobacco in India in the year 1962-63;

(b) whether Government propose to bring any restrictions on the cultivation of these crops; and

(c) what income Government derive from the cultivation of these crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAC SINGH): (a) The control over production and levy of duty etc. on Bhang and Ganja come within the purview of the State Governments. Information in respect of area under cultivation of these two crops during 1962-63 has not been received from the State Governments so far. The information in respect of opium and tobacco is as follows:—

Name of the Commodity	Area under cultivation (in hectares)
Opium	26,078
Tobacco	2,46,000 (up to Dec. 1962)

(b) No restrictions are proposed to be imposed on the cultivation of tobacco. As regards opium, the licensing policy for production is largely guided by international obligations to restrict it to medical and scientific needs.

(c) The income from excise duty on opium is earned by the State Governments and the Central Government only derive some profits on its export to foreign countries.

The revenue derived during 1962-63 up to January 1963 is Rs. 30.57 crores on unmanufactured tobacco and Rs. 19.84 crores on manufactured tobacco.

240. [Transferred to the 18th March, 1963.]