

annual budget the expenditure varies, but up to date the U.S. Technical Co-operation Mission has agreed to contribute 6.6 million dollars, as per details which I can give:

2.5 million dollars for the supply of field and laboratory equipment; services of 45 U.S. technicians and advanced training of 148 Indian staff members in U.S.A.—4 million dollars. The expenditure which the Indian Government, both Central and States, will have to incur is Rs. 36.8 million.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In regard to the technical staff attached to the veterinary colleges, may I know whether they are paid for by the Indian Government or by the U.S.A.?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They are paid out of the contributions of the Technical Co-operation Mission.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What is the answer?

MR. CHAIRMAN: By the Technical Co-operation Mission they are paid.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: May I know what the intention of these contracts is?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The intention is to develop agricultural and veterinary education in India, to give facilities to the Indian staff members for training abroad and to benefit from the advice and training afforded by the technicians.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Does this technical co-operation extend to the opening of new agricultural colleges?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: So far it is confined to existing colleges.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Arising out of my question, another question is, if they are paid for by the Technical Co-operation Mission, do we give them any facilities like boarding or lodging or anything of that kind?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir. As I have said, I have given the totals of expenditure. As for other details, it will take a long time to give them here.

STEPS TAKEN TO STOCK RICE OUT OF RABI CROP

*311. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to stock as much rice as possible out of the expected bumper rabi crop; and

(b) what is the target fixed for procurement by the Centre in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Purchasing organizations have been set up by the Government of India and by the Governments of the important rice-producing States to purchase rice/paddy out of the *kharif* crop.

(b) No targets as such have been fixed by the Central Government, but efforts are being made to acquire as much as possible of the surplus stocks of rice available in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Punjab.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know the total quantity of rice intended to be stocked?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No definite target, as I have already stated, has been fixed, but various estimates are being made. We expect that we may be in a position to purchase about 10 to 12 lakh tons on Central Government account and 8 to 9 lakh tons on State Governments account.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know what arrangements have been made for their safe storage and the location of the godowns?

SHRI A M THOMAS: Arrangements are being made. The Central Government has got possession of about 15 lakh tons capacity. The various State Governments have also got their arrangements. The storage problem is constantly under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: He has said that arrangements have been made to purchase surplus rice from Andhra Pradesh. Is it the surplus after meeting the requirements of Andhra Pradesh or surplus after meeting the requirements of the zone there?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It is only the net surplus we intend to procure, surplus after meeting the requirements of all the States including Kerala in the Southern Zone.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: May I know on what basis the overall surplus is assessed by the Central Government?

SHRI A M THOMAS: On the production figures supplied by the various State Governments.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PAT L: What are the difficulties in fixing up the targets of purchase?

SHRI A M THOMAS: There are various difficulties. Of course, the production figures have not been finally assessed and procurement will depend on various circumstances. Our attempt is to procure as much as possible.

SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: May I know the quantity of rice that is going to be procured from the State of Orissa?

SHRI A M THOMAS: We expect to procure about 4 lakh tons from Orissa.

SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: At what rate?

SHRI A M. THOMAS: This has been published. Procurement prices have been fixed and in Orissa, the common rice is being procured at Rs. 15, fine variety at Rs 15.81 and superfine variety at Rs 17.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the output of rice on account of the rabi crops as distinct from rice from the kharif crops?

SHRI A. M THOMAS: Sir, the hon. Member, I presume, refers to the kharif crop and not to the rabi crop. Rabi crops, as the hon. House knows, consist of wheat, barley and gram.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: On the basis of production figures supplied by the Governments of the Southern region, how much is the overall surplus according to the Government? How much do they calculate it to be?

SHRI A. M THOMAS: These figures have not been finalised. I am not in a position to mention the exact figure.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to place the production figures supplied to them by the various Governments on the Table of the House?

SHRI A. M THOMAS: Certainly, Sir.

SHRI T S PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether due to indiscriminate purchase of rice by Kerala in Tamil Nad, prices have gone up and the Madras Government has requested the Centre to ban the movement of rice from Madras to Kerala?

SHRI A. M THOMAS: It may not be proper to place before the House all the representations that have been made by the Madras Government. But it is not quite correct to say that the prices are on the increase in Madras. Now, the Madras prices vary from Rs 16.58 to Rs. 20 for the coarse variety. So the prices are not high.

* **SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN:** At least will the Government be pleased to give us the exact figures of the quantity of rice that has been exported from the Tanjore District itself to Kerala through the medium of merchants?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: From Tanjore and Tiruchirapalli Divisions, the estimate is about two lakh tons.

FIXATION OF MAXIMUM PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

*312. **SHRI V. PRASAD RAO:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in which the maximum price of foodgrains has been fixed; and

(b) what are the prices fixed and how they compare with the prevailing market price in each State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) In ten States and in one Union territory maximum controlled prices for certain foodgrains have been fixed.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha showing the maximum controlled prices now in force in the States and the Union territory. [See Appendix XXIV, Annexure No. 26]. The market prices vary from area to area and also according to the quality of foodgrains, and it would involve considerable labour to obtain comparable prices prevailing in each area and for different types of foodgrains.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether actually the grain or rice is available for the prices fixed? If not, may I know whether any efforts are made to see that actually rice is sold at those maximum prices fixed?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: We have appealed to all the State Governments to enforce the maximum controlled

prices. I may also say that in some of the States where we have fixed controlled prices such as Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and the Punjab, we are also getting rice on a voluntary basis. That indicates that the market prices now existing there are not above the controlled prices. For example, in Andhra Pradesh we have got 25,700 tons during the last two months on a voluntary basis. In Madhya Pradesh, we got as on 20-2-59, 1,25,000 tons. In Orissa also we are getting on a voluntary basis. A quantity of about 18,600 tons and 15,500 tons of paddy has been received according to reports received some time back. In the Punjab also procurement is done.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know on what basis the hon. Minister has gathered these statistics? Actually, while the maximum price fixed per maund is Rs. 17 in the four delta districts, the ruling price today in the Vijayawada market is not less than Rs. 22. How can the hon. Minister say that the prices are those...

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The information with me indicates that at Vijayawada the price of coarse rice (Akkullu 2nd sort) is Rs. 17. Generally speaking, prices from Rs. 17 to Rs. 21 so that the information of my learned friend is not correct.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: I am exactly quoting from his own figures. It has been stated in the statement that the price of fine rice (K 12) is fixed at Rs. 17 per maund. But the ruling price today in Vijayawada—he can verify it from any newspaper is Rs. 21 odd.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: These may be the retail prices.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Am I to understand that the difference between the retail and the wholesale prices is more than Rs. 5 per maund? If so, what steps are the Government taking to curb this?