

per maund from the District of Hissar in Punjab and rice is imported in that District from Uttar Pradesh at the rate of 24 rupees per maund;

(b) whether any complaints have been received by Government from the people in Sirsa in the District of Hissar in this respect; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Rice is being procured in Punjab at prices ranging from Rs. 16 to Rs. 24-8-0 per maund for different qualities. Government are not aware of import of rice into the Hissar District from U.P.

(b) and (c). The millers of Sirsa Sub-Division represented against the cordoning off of the Sub-Division, but as this cordoning was necessary in the interest of the procurement operations, it could not be removed.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know the quantity of rice which was exported from Hissar District and the quantity that was imported into Hissar District?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: A quantity of 3,674 tons of rice was procured from Hissar District.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether any target for procurement was set and, if so, what was the target? I also would like to know the quantity actually procured by the Government so far.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In Punjab, no target was fixed but it was estimated that about a lakh of tons could be procured and we have, on 15th April 1958, procured a quantity of 84,724 tons of rice.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know the price at which rice is being procured in U.P.?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: No rice is being procured in U.P.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether the rice procured in Hissar has been procured on a voluntary basis or on a compulsory basis?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It has been procured on a voluntary basis but, towards the close of the period, some amount has been procured by requisition. The total quantity obtained by requisition is 8,600 tons spread out throughout Punjab.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know if any rice is being imported from Burma?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It was announced, Sir, that we would be getting about 2½ lakh tons of rice from Burma.

SUPPLY OF TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS TO TRADERS OF FATEHABAD IN THE DISTRICT OF HISSAR

*2. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traders of Fatehabad in the district of Hissar, Punjab had applied for telephone connections about one year back but no action has so far been taken in this connection;

(b) whether Government have received any representation in this connection from these traders; and

(c) what action Government are taking for providing telephone connections there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). Yes

(c) A manual exchange is being sanctioned for providing telephone connections.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I want to know whether these connections in Hissar could not be given due to non-availability of material or was it for any other reason?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, we undertake expansion of the telephone system on the basis of the importance of the towns, beginning with District Headquarters and ending with Tehsil Headquarters. This happens to be perhaps in the last category and we got applications for new connections only very late, last year, and, therefore, I do not think there has been any delay on that account.

TALKS ON CANAL WATER DISPUTE
TO BE HELD IN ROME

*3. { SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:
SHRI V. K. DHAGE:
SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that further exploratory talks on the Indo-Pakistan dispute on the distribution of the waters of the Indus System are to be held at Rome amongst the representatives of India, Pakistan and the World Bank towards the end of April this year; and

(b) if so, what are the latest developments in this connection which have necessitated fresh talks being held?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In January 1958, Mr. W. A. B. Iliff, Vice President of the World Bank discussed separately with the representatives of the Governments of India and Pakistan the possibilities of various approaches towards a settlement of the Canal Water Dispute. The talks in Rome will be in continuation of these discussions.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is not a fact that some time-limit was fixed for implementation of the agreements arrived at under the good offices of the World Bank and, if so, why is not the India Government proceeding with its own plan when Pakistan has no intention whatsoever to implement the agreement?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It was not a question of fixing any time-limit. At a certain point, it was found that it may not be fruitful to continue further discussions but, subsequently, the Bank wrote again to both the Governments that they might start negotiations afresh on the basis of the Bank proposals to be taken as the starting point. When the Bank is sincere to bring about some settlement between the two countries, we have sent our delegates to participate in these talks.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Government of India has any assurance whatsoever from the Government of Pakistan as to the certainty of implementation of the agreement arrived at in the earlier talks?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: There could not be any exact assurances about it. It all depends upon how development takes place but the fact that they are also participating in the negotiations means that they want to negotiate or to try to bring about a settlement.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: It has been suggested that India pay for the construction of the carrier canals in Pakistan as part of the settlement. Is that suggestion a commitment on the part of India or is it conditional on any other factors?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: I have not followed the question.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: It has been suggested that India pay for the construction of the carrier canals in