

to the reply given to Starred Question No. 493 in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 1957 and state when the *ad hoc* committee set up by Government for examining the existing slaughter houses is likely to submit its report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): The Committee submitted its Report on the 31st December, 1957. A summary of the report along with the recommendations made by the Committee has been placed in the Library of the House.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether Government has received any complaint about the unhealthy conditions prevailing in the slaughter houses in Delhi?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We are in receipt of complaints from all over the country, not only from Delhi.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know what action Government is taking to implement the recommendations of this Committee?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: All those recommendations which concern the States have been communicated to the State Governments for implementation, and such of the recommendations as are directly the concern of the Central Government and the various Ministries here, are being circulated to the concerned Ministries here.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: When will the report of the Committee on the prevention of cruelty to animals which was submitted long ago be circulated to Members?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: This Committee is about slaughter houses and not on prevention of cruelty to animals.

PURCHASE OF RICE FROM PUNJAB

***115. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice purchased by Government from Punjab and in particular from the district of Hissar, during the last six months;

(b) the agency through which the rice was purchased;

(c) the rate at which the rice was purchased and rate at which it was supplied to deficit and famine-stricken areas; and

(d) the measures which Government are taking to increase the production of rice in the State of Punjab?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS) (a)- 61,734 tons by 10th February, 1958, which includes 3,168 tons purchased from the District of Hissar.

(b) The Government of Punjab.

(c) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Steps to improve production of rice, such as adoption of Japanese method of cultivation, making available chemical fertilizers and improved seeds are being taken by the Punjab Government.

STATEMENT

Procurement and Issue prices of rice in Punjab

PRICES AT WHICH RICE HAS BEEN PROCURED IN PUNJAB

Variety	Price per maund bagged
	Rs. n.P.
Begmi	18.00
Dara and Sela Joshi	16.50
Basmati raw	25.00

Variety	Price per maund bagged
	Rs. nP.
Basmati Boiled (Sela)	22.75
Hensraj Mushkin, Parmal, Ram-jawain and Chahora	
(a) Raw	22.25
(b) Boiled	20.50
White Total	12.25

Remarks.—(1) The prices specified are for fair average quality confirming to the specifications fixed for each variety and subject to quality cuts as provided in the specifications.

(2) The prices are for grains packed in sound new gunnies. For naked grains the maximum prices are Re. 0.50 per maund less than the prices specified above.

(3) In addition to the price, the seller is paid As. 2.6 per md. for F.O.R. delivery.

ISSUE PRICES OF RICE PROCURED IN PUNJAB

The following are the prices at which the rice procured in Punjab is being issued at present to different places:—

Variety	Price per maund bagged
	Rs. nP.
Basmati	30.00
Dara and Begi	16.00
Other Varieties	Have not yet been issued.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know whether any complaint has been received from the residents of Sirsa regarding the procurement of rice?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I have no knowledge.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: What is the method adopted for procurement by the Punjab Government?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Maximum prices have been fixed, and generally they procure stocks voluntarily but recently the State Government have also begun requisitioning rice with recalcitrant dealers.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Do they consult the State Governments before fixing the prices?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: They are consulted.

SHRI V. VENKATARAMANA: Have they agreed to the prices fixed by the Central Government?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: They have been agreed to.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether procurement is being made from the open market or requisitioning of stocks is being made from farmers?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There are several *mandis* there and there are also merchants who procure small quantities and then supply to the State Governments.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: I want to know whether requisitioning is made from farmers.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I cannot say whether any requisitioning has been made from the farmers, but requisitioning orders have been issued as far as certain merchants are concerned.

TOURISTS TO AJANTA CAVES

*116. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists who visited the Ajanta Caves from 1st April, 1957 to 31st January, 1958; and