

Wherever jowar goes below Rs. 5/8, we go and purchase. In the case of rice, we have fixed Rs. 11 as a fair and economic price. The question of purchasing has not arisen because it has not gone down below Rs. 11. We have not purchased any rice so far because that situation has not arisen.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is that the latest position? What kind of rice is my hon. friend thinking of? Is it the first quality or the second quality?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Whenever we fix a minimum price, it is for the coarse grain. It varies with the other varieties.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that the Chief Minister of U.P. definitely stated that, if the prices go down below the rates stated by the hon. Minister, they will not be in a position to purchase the grains, and if it is so, what steps does the Government propose to take to dis-abuse the impression created in the minds of the people by that statement?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We will do the needful in the matter.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know why, when the Madras Government has recommended the purchasing of bajra in centres where it has gone down below Rs. 6, the Government of India has not taken any steps to purchase bajra in Cuddalore and Tuticorin areas?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The actual purchase is done by the State Government. It is for them to follow the trends in the mandies and purchase it whenever it falls below this level. We can only give them the necessary financial assistance.

#### †COACHES AND WAGONS ON THE EX-JODHPUR RAILWAY

\*401. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coaches and wagons in use on the ex-Jodhpur Railway at the time of integration of that Railway; and

(b) the number of coaches and wagons at present available for use in that area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, Annexure No. 107.]

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### SOCIAL EDUCATION ON THE RAILWAYS

\*533. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a scheme for social education on the Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, the nature of this education and the manner in which it will be imparted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of 'Social Education' on Railways is to encourage the public to become more civic minded, the bias being with regard to the proper use of Railway premises and carriages.

The media proposed to be employed are posters, loudspeaker announcements and cinema shows using mobile vans.

##### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SHIPPING COMPANIES

\*540. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance given to the (i) Indian and (ii) foreign shipping companies during the year 1954-55; and

(b) which are those companies?