

Shri A. P. Jain: Fair price shops are for the sale of foodgrains and not for the purchase of grains.

Rolling Flour Mills

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*422. } **Shri Ansar Harvani:**
 } **Shri Morarka:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) how many rolling flour mills are operating at present;

(b) what quantity of foreign imported wheat is supplied to these mills and at what rate; and

(c) at what rate these mills are selling maida, atta and suji to retailers?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) According to reports received by the Government 85 Roller Flour Mills are operating in India at present.

(b) Imported wheat from Government stocks is now supplied only to the mills outside the three wheat zones. The quantity issued amounts to about 60,000 tons per month. The price charged is Rs. 14/- per maund inclusive of the cost of bags.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 13].

Shri Ansar Harvani: The ex fill price of flour in Bombay is Rs. 15.25, in Calcutta Rs. 15.00 and in South India Rs. 13.00. May I know the reasons for the difference in prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): That is due to difference in milling charges and difference in cost of production.

Shri Ajit Singh: May I know whether the Government want to open more fair price shops in any of the towns in the country?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have got about 29,000 fair price shops in different parts of the country. If they are needed anywhere we may open more.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government is aware that in the last 15 days the price of atta has gone up to the extent of four chattaks per rupee in Delhi?

Shri A. P. Jain: We are aware that the price of atta has gone up from Rs. 39 per bag to Rs. 41 and a few naya paisas per bag. This is mostly due to the seasonal fluctuation on account of rains as the arrivals of wheat from rural areas are low.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know how many shops have been opened in the villages?

Mr. Speaker: How does that arise out of the main question? The main question is about rolling flour mills operating at present; fair price shops do not arise out of that. We will go to the next question.

Fresh Water Supply in the Coastal Tracts of Kerala

*423. **Shri Kодиyan:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 691 on the 31st May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Government of India have under its consideration any schemes submitted by Kerala State to provide fresh water supply in the coastal tracts of Kerala;

(b) if so, what are those schemes; and

(c) the nature and extent of financial aid sought by the State Government in respect of these schemes?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) and (b). A Scheme namely "Tube Wells in coastal areas" estimated to cost Rs. 7.20 lakhs was approved by the Government of India during the First Plan period.