

Procurement of Rice

*487. **Shri Ramam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing any difficulty in the matter of procurement of rice in any State; and

(b) if so, the names of the States and the nature of the difficulties?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) and (b). The Government of India are procuring rice only in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Punjab at present. The usual difficulties are being experienced in the matter of procurement, as for instance, attempts at smuggling, stocks of rice and reluctance on the part of certain Stockists to sell their stocks to Government in the expectation of securing a higher price for their goods in areas where the prevailing market rates are much higher than the maximum controlled prices in the procurement areas.

Export of Rice from Orissa to Bihar

*488. { **Shri Panigrahi:**
Shri Mahanty:
Shri P. G. Deb:

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

(a) whether 25,000 tons of rice offered by the Government of Orissa to the Central Government has been diverted to Bihar; and

(b) whether the State Government has agreed to this export of rice from Orissa?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Loss of Wagon Fittings in Collieries

*489. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Railway Administration has issued a circular letter in March, 1957

to various colliery associations laying down a procedure to arrest loss of wagon fittings said to originate in colliery sidings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the colliery associations have complained that the procedure was not completely followed and yet debits were raised against them when the loss of fittings was mainly due to careless maintenance of wagons; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No 137.]

Strike by Auto Rickshaw drivers in Delhi.

*490. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Naushir Bharucha:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U. L. Patil:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether auto-rickshaw drivers in Delhi went on a strike recently;

(b) if so, what were their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to conciliate them.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes

(b) and (c) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 138.]

Milk Supply Scheme for Delhi

*491. { **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

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

(a) whether the Government scheme to improve the milk supply