

(c) The reviewing Committee found that the treatment given by the Medical Officers charge of the cases was satisfactory.

#### Tungabhadra High Level Canal

\*913. { Shri Nagi Reddy:  
Shri Ramam:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) the nature of the work on Tungabhadra High Level Canal that has been planned for the year 1959-60; and

(b) the amount of money that has been sanctioned?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No detailed programme of construction for 1959-60 has yet been prepared but preliminary works such as levelling and surveying of canals etc, have already been undertaken. The Technical Advisory Committee has recently approved the detailed estimates relating to Stage I of the Project. The State Governments concerned and the Tungabhadra Board will now prepare the phased programme of construction for the year 1959-60.

(b) A provision of Rs 50 lakhs for Andhra Pradesh and of Rs 12 lakhs for Mysore has been made in the Annual Plan for 1959-60.

#### Purchase of Rice From Madhya Pradesh

\*914 { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla  
Shri Kistalya:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have decided to purchase rice stocks, old and new from surplus rice producing districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, broad details of the purchasing scheme; and

(c) when its implementation will commence?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) This decision was taken some time ago and purchases are being made accordingly.

(b) The Central Government are making purchases of rice direct from millers and traders through their officers at the controlled prices fixed for the different varieties of milled and handpounded rice.

(c) Purchases of rice are continuing since December 1958.

#### Spice Board

\*915. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Central Government is considering the question of setting up a Spice Board in India to reduce the cost of production of various spices in order to regain foreign market, India lost in recent years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The question of setting up a Spices Board is under consideration of the Government of India.

#### Skin-Dust and Unused Skins

\*916 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiment has been made regarding use of skin-dust and unused skins as fertilisers, and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b) No systematic experiments have been conducted in this country regarding the use of skin-dust and unused skins as fertilisers. Leather waste contains 7 to 8 per cent Nitrogen. It undergoes decomposition in soil with extreme slowness. Investigations are in progress in the laboratory of the Bombay State Agricultural Chemist to decompose the refractory tanning