

Purchase of Rice and Paddy by Orissa Government

2195 Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and paddy which has been purchased by the Orissa Government on the Government of India account so far, besides the purchases made by the State Government on its own accord,

(b) the total amount of money which the Government of India have advanced to the State Government so far on this account,

(c) the total quantity of paddy that the Government of India have supplied to West Bengal from Orissa so far since January, 1959,

(d) the price per maund at which the Government of West Bengal is purchasing this rice and paddy from the Central Government, and

(e) the price at which the Government of West Bengal is selling rice and paddy in the State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The following quantities of rice and paddy were purchased in Orissa on Central Government account up to 13th March, 1959:—

Rice	51,900 tons
Paddy	29,500 tons

(b) Rs. 125 lakhs

(c) Out of the quantity of 20,000 tons so far allotted to West Bengal from Orissa, 13,140 tons of paddy were despatched to West Bengal up to 13th March, 1959.

(d) Rice has not so far been supplied to West Bengal Government out of the purchases made in Orissa for the Central Government. For paddy the Central Government will recover from the West Bengal Government

their economic cost which will be approximately as follows:—

Variety	Price per maund bagged F.O.R. despatching station
Common	Rs. 10.25
Fine	Rs. 10.75
Super	Rs. 11.45

(e) Paddy is not being issued to consumers in West Bengal under the modified rationing Scheme. Irrespective of the source from which it is received, rice is being sold at prices varying between 44 and 58 naye paise per seer depending on the quality of rice and the distance of the distribution centre from the Government godown.

Meteorological Station at Laccadives Islands

2196. Shri Nallakoya: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start a meteorological station at Androth Island in the Laccadives and to upgrade the one in Amindivi, and

(b) if so, at what stage is the proposal at present?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohinddin): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Preliminary survey for the selection of suitable sites for a surface meteorological observatory at Androth Island and for a combined surface and pilot-balloon observatory at Amindivi was made in February-March, 1958. The opening of the observatories cannot, however, be taken in hand immediately, as no telegraph communication facilities exist at either of the islands for the transmission of observational data to the forecasting offices in the Indian mainland.

Irrigation Schemes for Bombay State

2197 Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be