

PRICES OF PADDY IN THE REGULATED MARKET OF GHOTI*

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THIS is an experimental analysis of prices of a food crop as recorded in a regulated market. The selected centre is Ghoti which is a major regulated market for paddy in the Igatpuri taluka of the Nasik district in Maharashtra. The food crop selected is paddy and the variety considered is *Gari Kolapi*, the most important variety accounting for about 68 per cent. of total sales of paddy in the market yard.¹ The period considered is of three years between 1959-60 and 1961-62. The data used for this study form a part of the information collected by the Gokhale Institute in the Survey of Marketing of Paddy in the Igatpuri taluka, conducted during 1961-62. The details of the data used are given in Appendix A. The marketing year considered is between September and August.

This study is essentially of an experimental nature mainly because the methodology of analysing prices of a foodgrain in a local assembling market in India is not yet clear. The varietal differences among the produce sold in different markets, for example, are so large, and the information about them so inadequate that not only does it become difficult to calculate parity prices on the basis of one market for another, but also it is difficult to know whether the differences in trends of prices observed in different markets originate from the supply and demand conditions peculiar to varieties or they are due to the supply and demand conditions peculiar to markets. The problem is not completely solved even if the price-data for two markets are comparable in respect of varieties reported; for, in such cases, the question of the selection of appropriate data relating to supply and demand still remains. Is, for example, the information available with the regulated markets sufficient and reliable for understanding the price mechanism in the market? If it is not, what are the sources of additional information required? In what ways is such information

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¹ Next in importance are *Surati* (12 per cent), *Warangal* (8 per cent), *Hali Kolapi* (8 per cent) and *Zini* (4 per cent). The data for these varieties are not considered mainly because they are traded in the market yard for a very short time during a year. It is also difficult to find prices comparable to these varieties in other markets.