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INDIAN FOOD STATISTICS



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PREFACE

This brochure presents within a brief compass an integrated picture of the production, procurement, imports, distribution, rationing and prices of foodgrains in the Indian Union.

The detailed work involved in the preparation of this publication was done by the Food Liaison Branch of the Directorate first under the supervision of Shri J.G. Anand and subsequently under the direct supervision of Shri S.C. Chaudhri.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The procedure adopted and the assumptions involved in the preparation of the various Tables in this brochure are briefly described below.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA AND POPULATION:

Table No. 1 gives the geographical area in 1941 and population in 1931 and 1941 for the different Provinces, Centrally Administered Areas and States of the Indian Union. The "Census of India - 1941", which gives area/population statistics in respect of the administrative units of the Undivided India, constitutes the source of this Table. To extract from this publication figures in regard to the constituents of the Indian Union, allowance has been made for Provinces and States of Undivided India gone over to Pakistan as a result of partition. In respect of territories gone over wholly to Pakistan, their entire area/population has been excluded from the Table; while the following procedure has been adopted to arrive at the area/population of the Indian Union part of the partitioned Provinces and States:-

ASSAM:- The area/population in respect of the portion of Sylhet district which has gone over to Pakistan has been deducted from the total area/population of the pre-partitioned Province to arrive at the area and population of Assam after the partition.

EAST PUNJAB:- The area/population figures have been arrived at by adding up the figures for the districts which are included in East Punjab. In the case of Kasur Tehsil in Lahore district, a portion of which falls in the Indian Union, half of the area/population figures in respect of the Tehsil have been included in East Punjab, since separate figures for the two portions of the Tehsil are not available.

WEST BENGAL:- The method adopted for estimating the area/population figures for West Bengal is similar to that adopted in the case of East Punjab.

EAST PUNJAB STATES:- The figures for East Punjab States have been obtained by deducting the area/population figures in respect of Bahawalpur and Chairpur States, which have acceded to Pakistan, from the area/population figures for the former Punjab States.

The Table, however, gives area and population figures for such boundaries of the Provinces and States as existed before the integration of States started.

PRODUCTION OF CEREALS AND GRAM:

Tables No. 2-24 give the production of cereals and gram. Of these, Tables No. 2-4 are summary tables, Tables No. 5-15 give Province & State-wise picture and Tables No. 16-24 relate to cereal-wise position.

It will be useful to understand clearly the distinction between what are called in the terminology of Agricultural Statistics the "Reporting Areas" and the "Non-Reporting Areas". A "Reporting Area" in relation to a certain cereal and a particular year is one which reports the acreage and production of that cereal for the given year to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Central Ministry of Agriculture, for inclusion in the All-India Crop Forecast of the cereal put out by the Directorate for that year. A "Non-Reporting Area" for the same cereal and the same year, on the other hand, is one which does not so report its estimates, and therefore does not find place in the All-India Crop Forecast of the cereal concerned for the year in question. Estimates of Area and yield in the "Reporting Areas" are prepared regularly by the authority concerned in such Areas and intimated to the Directorate as a matter of routine for incorporation in All-India Crop Forecasts. Those in the "Non-Reporting Areas" however, are not made in the same manner and with the same regularity as in the "Reporting Areas" because of the non-existence of crop-reporting and crop-forecasting agency in them. The estimates in the "Non-Reporting Areas" are, therefore, made ad hoc by the local authorities and furnished to the Directorate on special enquiry. They are, as such, not incorporated in the All-India Crop Forecasts. The "Non-Reporting Areas", however, are just a fraction of the "Reporting Areas" and comprise some States, vide Tables No. 16-24.

The terms "Reporting Area" and "Non-Reporting Area", however, do not imply some fixed rigid territories for all cereals and for all times. All the Provinces, for instance, are "Reporting" for rice, but none of them is so for small millets, no Crop Forecast being issued for small millets. Further, a Province may be "Reporting" in respect of only the more important cereals produced in it and "Non-Reporting" in regard to the comparatively insignificant cereals although All-India Crop Forecasts are issued in respect of the latter cereals too but, of course, without the figures for such a Province. For example, Assam is "Reporting" for rice and "Non-Reporting" for other cereals, and East Punjab is "Reporting" for all cereals except Jagg. Likewise, a State which is "Non-Reporting" in one year may become "Reporting" in a subsequent year when it reports estimates for being incorporated in the Crop Forecasts.

Once, however, a "Non-Reporting Area" is brought on the "Reporting" basis, it generally continues to be on that basis.

Table No. 2 gives the production of individual cereals and gram for the Indian Union as a whole, that is for the "Reporting" and the "Non-Reporting Areas" combined. Tables No. 3 and 4 respectively give the break-up of Table No. 2 into "Reporting Areas" and "Non-Reporting Areas" separately. Tables No. 5-15 give the details, Province- and State-wise, of Table No. 3. Tables No. 16-24 show the grain-wise details of Table No. 3. These are so designed as to give in Part I the details of Table No. 3 and in Part II those of Table No. 4. A glance at the two parts of these tables would enable an appreciation of what the "Reporting" and "Non-Reporting Areas" were for a particular crop in a particular year, and the year in which the transference of a "Non-Reporting Area" to "Reporting" basis took place.

It must be noted that Tables No. 2-24 give figures of gross production only. If, therefore, estimates of the net production available for consumption in the country or Province/State have to be framed, allowance will have to be made for such factors as the cultivators' requirements for seed, wastage which occurs in storage and elsewhere, etc. The following Table, which is based on the information contained in the Marketing Surveys conducted by Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, gives the percentage of production estimated as being used for seed requirements, wastage etc. in respect of cereals and gram:-

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Percentage*</u>
Rice	6.7
Wheat	15.6
Jovar	12.4
Bajra	12.9
Maize	16.05
Barley	22.7
Ragi	10.7
Small Millets	22.5
Gram	18.7

* Figures relate to Undivided India

If these percentages are applied to the annual gross yield of different foodgrains, the overall allowance to be made on account of seed, wastage etc.

comes on an average over a number of years to about 12 per cent of the total gross production. As a rough and ready method, however, an allowance of 12 1/2 per cent is made from the gross production of cereals and gram to arrive at the net production available for human consumption.

PROCUREMENT:

Tables No. 25-28 give the statistics of procurement of important cereals. Table No. 25 shows the total procurement of the Indian Union, the three tables following it giving the grain-wise details.

Procurement implies acquiring of the surpluses of the cultivators by the Provincial and State Governments for meeting their rationing commitments and, in the case of surplus areas, for export to deficit regions as well. Procurement of the Kharif and Rabi cereals starts immediately after harvesting and threshing of the crops is over and, therefore, the statistics pertaining to procurement are generally maintained according to the Kharif and Rabi years, the former extending from November to October and the latter from May to April. It should be clearly understood, however, that though procurement figures may be maintained separately for the Kharif and Rabi years, the total procurement of a Kharif year and the subsequent Rabi year is really the procurement out of the Kharif and Rabi crops raised during the relevant agricultural year. For example, the Kharif crops raised in the Agricultural year, July 1943 to June 1944, will be procured during the Kharif year, November 1943 to October 1944, while the Rabi crops raised during the same Agricultural year will be procured during the Rabi year, May 1944 to April 1945. In other words, the procurement of Kharif cereals made during the Kharif year 1943-44 plus that of Rabi cereals made during the Rabi year 1944-45 is the total procurement out of the Kharif and Rabi crops raised during the Agricultural year 1943-44.

Tables No. 25-28 give the procurement made in the Indian Union, even for the period before partition. From the procurement accounts for Undivided India, figures in respect of territories gone over wholly to Pakistan have been excluded, while for the partitioned Provinces of Assam and Punjab the share of the Indian Union Provinces of Assam and the East Punjab has been arrived at by splitting the figures relating to the undivided Provinces on the basis of production of the cereals concerned in the two parts of the respective Provinces. Figures in respect of West Bengal have been obtained from the Provincial Government.

TRADE IN CEREALS:

Tables No. 29-34A deal with trade in cereals. Table No. 29 gives the net trade of the Indian Union with foreign countries including Pakistan, Tables No. 30 and 31 respectively provide the break-up of Table No. 29 into Indian Union's trade with foreign countries other than Pakistan upto August 1943 and Indian Union's trade with Pakistan upto 15th August, 1947. Table No. 32 shows the imports of cereals on Government account into Undivided India from September 1943 onwards by Financial years (April to March) and Table No. 33 gives the same information by Calendar years. Table No. 34 gives the quantity and value of imports by countries of origin, and Table No. 34A shows estimates of imports of cereals on Government account into Indian Union by Basic Plan years.

For a proper appraisal of the position of the Indian Union in respect of her trade in cereals, it is necessary for the pre-partitioned years to exclude the share of Pakistan in Undivided India's foreign trade and to take into account the trade between the Indian Union and Pakistan territories. How Table No. 29 attempts to achieve this will become clear on a study of the procedure adopted to draw up the subsequent two tables.

Table No. 30 covers the period upto 31st August, 1943 only. The date 1st September 1943 marks an important event in the history of food administration in the country. Before that date, there was no ban on exports and imports of foodgrains on private account; since that date exports of controlled foodgrains have been banned and imports allowed only on Government account. Therefore, figures relevant for an appraisal of the Indian Union's trade in cereals upto 31st August, 1943 are those available in the accounts published for Undivided India by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, while for the period beginning from 1st September 1943 they are those available with the Central Ministry of Food. From the accounts published by the D.G.C.I. & S. upto 31st August 1943, the share of the Indian Union in Undivided India's foreign trade has been arrived at by excluding from the latter all trade passing through Pakistan territory, that is through Karachi and Chittagong by sea and through the North-Western Land Frontier routes. The figures so worked out are given in Table No. 30.

Table No. 31 gives Indian Union's trade with Pakistan upto the 15th August 1947, the date of partition. The 1st of September 1943 is important for the purposes of this Table also, but for another reason. From that date the Government of India assumed not only the responsibility of importing foodgrains

from foreign countries but also of distributing among the deficit areas the imported foodgrains as well as the quantities available from the surplus areas within the country, in accordance with the Basic Plan. The receipts by and despatches from the different Provinces and States under the Kharif and Rabi Basic Plans are available for the Kharif grains from 1st November 1943 and for Rabi grains from 1st May 1944. Therefore, the figures relevant for arriving at the Indian Union's trade with Pakistan from Kharif year 1943-44 onwards are those available in the Basic Plan accounts maintained by the Central Ministry of Food, while for the period prior to that year the relevant figures are those available in the (i) Accounts relating to Inland (Rail & River Borne) Trade of India and (ii) Accounts relating to the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India, put out by the D.G.C.I. & S. The method adopted for framing the estimates of net trade of the Indian Union with Pakistan from the Rail and River Borne accounts upto 1943-44 has been the same as utilized for making similar estimates from the Basic Plan Accounts since Kharif 1943-44, and is given under the head "Movements Under Basic Plan". It has to be pointed out, however, that whereas the Basic Plan accounts give the figures of 'Receipts' and 'Despatches' province-wise, the Rail and River Borne accounts give them by trade blocks. It has, therefore, been assumed that the figures for the partitioned trade blocks - Punjab, Bengal and Assam - relate to the respective undivided Provinces, and their splitting up into figures for the two parts of each Province has been done in the same manner as that of the figures available in the Basic Plan accounts. The figures given for Bengal in the Coasting Trade and Navigation accounts have been taken to relate to West Bengal.

It will be noticed that in Table No. 31, figures subsequent to 1943-44 combine the Kharif and Rabi year figures. This had to be done because, as already said above, Basic Plan accounts are maintained separately for the Kharif and Rabi plans. Since, however, the bulk of the Kharif Plan movements take place generally during January to May and those of the Rabi Plan movements generally from May to December, the Calendar year January to December more or less covers both the plans. The combined figure for Kharif 1943-44 and Rabi 1944-45 may thus be taken to cover the Calendar year 1944 for all practical purposes.

Turning now to the Indian Union's net imports of cereals from foreign

countries, including Pakistan (Table No. 29), it will be seen that

- (i) for the financial years upto 1942-43, it should be equal to the sum of the net imports into the Indian Union from foreign countries excluding Pakistan (Table No. 30) and those from Pakistan (Table No. 31);
- (ii) for the financial year 1943-44, it should be equal to the sum of the net imports into the Indian Union from foreign countries excluding Pakistan upto 31st August 1943 (Table No. 30), the imports of cereals on Government account into undivided India from 1st September 1943 to 31st March 1944 (Table No. 32) and the net imports into the Indian Union from Pakistan for that year (Table No. 31);
- (iii) for the Calendar years 1944 to 1947, it should be equal to the sum of the Indian Union's net imports from Pakistan for the Kharif and Rabi years falling within the respective Calendar years, (Table No. 31) and Calendar year imports on Government account into Undivided India (Table No. 33); and
- (iv) for 1948, it should correspond to the imports on Government account into the Indian Union (last column of Table No. 33).

It will be seen that in Table No. 31 there is a switch-over from the Financial year 1943-44 to Kharif 1943-44 plus Rabi 1944-45. As, however, Kharif 1943-44 and Rabi 1944-45 may, as pointed out above, be taken as equivalent to the Calendar year 1944 for all practical purposes, the switch-over may be taken as from Financial year 1943-44 to Calendar year 1944. This switch-over is naturally carried into Table No. 29. If, therefore, a comparison between the figures upto the Financial year 1943-44 in either of these tables is made with those from 1944 onwards the fact that the former set of figures covers the Financial years and that the latter set relates to Calendar years is to be borne in mind. The period January-March 1944 is covered by both the figures relating to the Financial year 1943-44 and the Calendar year 1944. This overlapping, it will be seen, is natural when there is a shift in the same series from the Financial year to the Calendar year.

Table No. 34 gives the quantities of cereals imported, by countries of origin. It also enables a study of the value of these imports.

Table No. 34A relates to estimates of quantities of cereals imported into Indian Union during the different Basic Plan years. A comparison of the figures in this table with those in Tables No. 35-40 would show that it gives estimates of imports from foreign countries including Pakistan. In view, however, of the assumptions, described above, used in framing the estimates of trade between the Indian Union and Pakistan, the estimates are of a rough and ready character.

MOVEMENTS UNDER BASIC PLAN:

Tables No. 35-40 relate to movements under Basic Plan, the first table giving the position in regard to the Indian Union as a whole and the remaining

five showing the cereal-wise and Province-and State-wise details.

Basic Plan means the Plan of allocation by the Government of India of internal surpluses and foreign imports to the deficit areas. Until recently the plan used to be prepared for the Kharif and Rabi years separately. Accounts of movements under the Basic Plan are, therefore, available for Kharif cereals by the Kharif years, and for Rabi cereal by the Rabi years. Movement of gram under the Basic Plan has started only recently, after Re-control.

Movements under the Basic Plan result in two sets of figures: (1) Receipts made by the recipient areas and (2) Despatches made by the surplus areas. Receipts of a Province during a Plan year may be from both the surpluses available within the country and imports from abroad during that period. Despatches, however, would naturally refer to exports made by that Province. Given these two figures in respect of a cereal for a Province, it is easy to find whether on balance it took in more of that cereal than it gave out or vice versa. Also, for a particular cereal the excess of total Receipts of the different recipients of the country over the total Despatches of the surplus units of the country for a certain Plan Year would give the total imports of that cereal during the Plan Year concerned. To make this clear, a row has been given at the end of each Table on Movements under Basic Plan to show the imports during the different Plan Years. These figures tally, as they ought to, with the balance of total Receipts and total Despatches.

These imports, it will be seen, are the estimated imports into Indian Union from foreign countries including Pakistan even for the pre-partitioned period, since they refer to the sum of the imports from foreign countries into Undivided India plus the estimated net imports from territories gone over to Pakistan. The detailed method adopted in arriving at these imports is as under:-

From the total Despatches of a cereal from the territories gone over to Pakistan, wholly or in part, the total Receipts of the same cereal made by the Pakistan territories is subtracted. The balance is the net Receipt by the Indian Union from Pakistan. Since the total Receipts made by Pakistan would include what went to that country out of the imports made by the Undivided India, this net Receipt by the Indian Union, when added to the imports from foreign countries made by the Undivided India, would give the net imports of the Indian Union from foreign countries including Pakistan.

In applying the above formula, the Receipts and Despatches of the Provinces and States gone over wholly to Pakistan have been accounted for in their entirety, while those in respect of the partitioned Provinces calculated as follows:-

EAST PUNJAB: All Despatches of wheat from the undivided Punjab have been taken

to have emanated from West Punjab, and all Receipts as having gone to East Punjab. This is based on the general wheat supply position of the two parts of the undivided Punjab. Receipts and Despatches of all other grains have been split on the basis of population and production respectively of the two parts.

ASSAM:- For rice, the Receipts and Despatches of undivided Assam have been split on the basis of population and production respectively of the two parts. For other cereals, Receipts of the undivided Assam have been split on the basis of population of the two parts, there being hardly any question of splitting the Despatches of other cereals since Assam itself does not produce any of them to any significant extent.

WEST BENGAL:- Up to the Kharif year 1943-44, Receipts of rice into undivided Bengal have been divided equally between the two parts, while for the subsequent period (upto 1946-47) all Receipts of rice have been taken to have gone to West Bengal. All the Despatches of rice from undivided Bengal are assumed to have gone from East Bengal. In the case of wheat and barley, 80 per cent of the Receipts into undivided Bengal have been assumed to have gone to West Bengal. As for maize and millets received by undivided Bengal, the entire quantity has been accounted to West Bengal.

RATIONING STATISTICS:

Tables No. 41-44 give rationing statistics. Broadly speaking, there are three systems of rationing adopted in India: Statutory, Non-statutory and Controlled Distribution. Statutory rationing implies an obligation on Government to provide a specific ration to every card-holder at a fixed price. Under Non-statutory rationing and Controlled Distribution there is no such legal obligation although the Government do, in practice, honour their commitments as fully as they do under Statutory rationing. During the De-control period when the prices of cereals rose high and scarcity was felt in parts of the country, Relief Quota shops were opened in several Provinces, particularly in the deficit regions, to supply rations at fixed rates to the poorer sections of the population. The distinction between different types of rationing should therefore be kept in mind while utilising Table No. 41, which gives the position in regard to the rationed population under different types of rationing as it was on different dates.

The scale of rations in the statutorily rationed areas is revised from time to time according to the availabilities of the rationed foodgrains. Table No. 42 compares the scales in force in the months of March during the years 1943-1949.

The composition and the size of rations allowed in the different parts of the country varies as between different rationed cereals and also from time to time. Table No. 43 gives the composition of rations as at the end of December, 1947 and at the end of March, 1949.

The ration card-holders do not necessarily take from their authorized ration shops all the ration that is allowed to them. Table No. 44 gives an idea of what the ration card-holders actually took in January, 1948 and September, 1948 and compares this offtake with the scale of rations that was allowed in those months.

PRICES:

Tables No. 45-67 relate to prices of cereals and gram. They have been classified under six broad heads: (1) Procurement prices (2) Statutory prices (3) Ration rates (4) Import prices (5) Market rates (during the decontrol period) and (6) Guaranteed minimum prices.

Tables No. 45 to 51 contain procurement prices of Kharif and Rabi grains before De-control (December, 1947) and after Re-control (September, 1948). These procurement prices are generally fixed for the entire crop season which, in the case of Kharif grains extends from November to October and in that of Rabi grains from May to April. In fixing these prices for a Province, the procurement prices fixed for neighbouring Provinces and States, the prices of the requirements of cultivators and the inter-relationship between prices of different foodgrains are all taken into consideration. The prices for the different areas within a Province are fixed in the light of the basic procurement price after allowing for differentials to cover cost of transport, handling, etc. Where grains are procured direct from the cultivator, prices payable to producers are fixed, and where procurement is done through the trade, prices payable to traders are fixed. In those regions where only basic maximum wholesale prices are fixed, Government purchases are made at or below the maximum according to the prevailing market conditions.

Statutory prices of cereals and gram are contained in Tables No. 52 to 58. A statutory price is the price fixed under the Foodgrains Control Order and it is an offence to sell or buy at a price higher than the statutory maximum which is fixed from time to time under that Order. As in the case of procurement prices, statutory prices within different areas in a Province are fixed in the light of basic maximum after taking into account incidental charges such as cost of transport, handling, etc.

Tables No. 59 to 63 contain ration rates for rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and maize at important rationed centres. The rates given in these Tables are those charged by the retailers from the ration card-holders in the statutorily rationed towns. The retailers receive the rationed foodgrains from the Government either direct or through the licensed wholesale dealers at fixed prices, called issue prices. The rates charged by the retailers from the consumers, as given in these Tables, are also fixed by the Government and are called retail ration rates.

Prices of cereals imported into India on Government account are given in Table No. 64. Both F.O.B. (Free on Board) and C. & F. (Cost and Freight) prices of cereals according to the country of origin and for each cereal separately have been shown but the prices worked out are the average for each financial year (April to March). The F.O.B. prices take into account the purchase price in the country of export and incidental charges, such as cost of transport from the market to the port of shipping in the foreign country. The C. & F. prices are a combination of the F.O.B. prices and the freight charges from the port of shipping to the port of landing in India.

Prices of cereals in the free markets during the De-control period (January to September, 1948) are given in Tables No. 65 and 66. Table No. 65 shows the monthly wholesale provincial average prices whereas Table No. 66 includes the month-end prices of major cereals at selected centres. Both before and after 1948, control on prices was in force. The market prices given in these Tables therefore provide a link between the prices prior to De-control and after Re-control.

Table No. 67 shows the guaranteed minimum prices in respect of wheat, jowar and bajra. In a press note issued on 3rd April, 1943, the Government of India had declared that "if during the war and for one year thereafter the prices of foodgrains tend, as a result of the food production drive, to fall below a level which would give a reasonable return to the cultivator, the Government of India will be prepared to intervene and buy at fair prices all foodgrains offered to them in the open market". These fair prices as they stood between 1944-45 and 1947-48 are given in the Table.

WORLD STATISTICS:

Tables No. 68-75 give world statistics, the first four tables giving the production of each of the major cereals and the last four giving the international trade in respect of those cereals. These tables enable a study of the position of the Indian Union in the world context.