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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

**COLLECTION OF
AGRICULTURAL PRICES
IN INDIA**



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1954

**COLLECTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRICES ~~IN INDIA~~
REPORT OF THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN

Shri P. N. Thapar, I.C.S., Adviser, Planning Commission.

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTORY

1. 1. Appointment and terms of reference.—With a view to setting up an efficient machinery for the collection of prices of agricultural commodities, the Government of India appointed a Committee of Enquiry, in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture Resolution No. F. 7-5/53-P. C. III, dated 11th November, 1953 (*vide* Appendix I), with the following terms of reference :—

- (i) to examine the existing machinery for the reporting of prices of agricultural commodities, including cash crops and foodgrains ; and
- (ii) to suggest improvements necessary in the existing machinery.

The Committee was constituted as follows :—

Chairman :

Shri P. N. Thapar, I.C.S., Adviser, Planning Commission.

Members :

Dr. S. R. Sen, Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Dr. B. Ramamurti, Joint Director, Central Statistical Organisation.

Secretary :

Shri J. S. Sarma, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Further, the Committee was directed to co-opt a member from each State to serve on the Committee in so far as the enquiry related to that particular State. A list of the members nominated by the respective State Governments is given in Appendix II.

1. 2. Plan of work.—The Committee held its first meeting on the 14th November, 1953, to decide the programme of work and the lines on which the Enquiry entrusted to it should be conducted. The first step was to obtain information regarding the present position in respect of the existing machinery for the collection of various types of prices and the nature and quality of the data collected. A Questionnaire (*vide* Appendix III) was prepared in consultation with a number of Economists and Statisticians and issued to State Governments, Central Government Organisations and also semi-Government Organisations such as Central Commodity Committees, towards the end of November, 1953. The replies were called for by the third week of December. With regard to price data collected by the non-official agencies, it was considered that all the information at present collected by such non-official agencies as traders, etc., did not fall

strictly within the purview of this Committee. However, the Questionnaire with suitable adaptations (*vide* Appendix IV) was sent to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the Imperial Bank of India with the request that they should compile the relevant information in respect of their constituents and forward the same to the Committee. Replies have been received from a few Chambers of Commerce, etc., the names of which are given in Appendix V.

1. 3. Visit to the States.—A study of the replies to the Questionnaire received from the States and other organisations indicated that it was necessary for the Committee to visit at least the important States and to make first-hand enquiries into the problems connected with the reporting of prices to understand fully the present machinery for price collection and the defects therein before it could make recommendations for its improvement. The Committee visited the States of Madras, Andhra, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Bombay, Saurashtra, Kutch, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Bharat and Mysore during the months of January and February, 1954. During these tours, the Committee visited one or two representative markets in each State and had discussions with the subordinate personnel as well as senior officers of the Government. Due to the shortness of time, visits to other States could not be arranged. The representatives of the Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Travancore-Cochin Governments met the Committee at Delhi. As regards the remaining States, the co-opted members in each State were requested to undertake the enquiry on behalf of the Committee and furnish brief reports on the basis of their findings. The recommendations of the Committee in respect of these States are therefore based on the enquiry made by the State representatives in their own respective areas.

1. 4. Extension of time.—The Committee was originally required to submit its Report by the end of January, 1954. However, visits to representative *mandis* and discussions with the officers of at least one or two typical States in each region were considered essential, but the Committee could not complete these visits by that time. Further, the members had to serve on the Committee in addition to their regular duties which happened to be exceptionally heavy during this period. Hence, the Report could not be submitted by that time and the Government extended the time limit by two months. The Report was finalised in a series of meetings held on the 25th March and subsequent days.

1. 5. Scope of the terms of reference.—The terms of reference given to the Committee covered the reporting of prices of agricultural commodities including foodgrains as well as cash crops. The Committee decided to interpret the term agricultural commodities somewhat broadly so as to include livestock, fisheries and forest products, since this additional material could be collected at little or no additional cost. The main recommendations of the Committee relate to the

reporting of wholesale prices with which it is directly concerned, but it has given its views and suggestions on retail and farm prices as well.

1. 6. Plan of the Report.—We have divided our Report into six Chapters of which the first and introductory Chapter deals with the appointment of the Committee and matters relating to the plan of work, etc. In Chapter II, we have described the over-all position obtaining in the country as a whole regarding the collection of price data. The description is based on the replies received to the Questionnaire and the material collected by us during the visits to different States. In Chapter III, we have discussed some technical problems connected with price collection. It has not been our intention to make this Report a comprehensive technical document on the theoretical aspects of price collection, but we have felt that the primary reporter who collects the prices as well as the persons utilising the information should have a clear comprehension of the principles basic to the collection of prices. With this end in view, the various aspects of the problem have been discussed briefly in so far as they have a bearing on the adoption of standard definitions and procedures. Our main suggestions for improvement in the machinery for the reporting of agricultural prices are given in Chapter IV. These recommendations call for immediate action on the part of Central and State authorities. Chapter V has been devoted to the discussion of the adequacy and representativeness of the centres proposed for inclusion in the cereals sub-group of the Economic Adviser's Index Number of Wholesale Prices and includes our recommendations for a more broad-based and representative list of Centres. In Chapter VI, a Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations is given.

While Chapters II and IV give a general description of price collection and of the improvements suggested by us, the detailed position in each State and our specific recommendations for adoption by each State Government are set out in Appendix VI to the Report.

1. 7. Acknowledgements.—Shri J. S. Sarma, Secretary of the Committee has had to work very hard. The material collected by him and the notes prepared for the consideration of the Committee have throughout shown care and imagination. His arrangements for our visits to the States and to the various markets have also been excellent. We place on record our deep appreciation of his good work. We have received the fullest co-operation from the officers concerned of the various States as well as from officers of the Central Government. We take this opportunity to thank them also.

CHAPTER II

PRESENT POSITION REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PRICE DATA

SECTION A.—WHOLESALE PRICES

2. 1. Historical.—The earliest series of wholesale price data available in the country relate to 1897 and are published in the "Prices and Wages", a publication issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Government of India, up to 1922. A second publication entitled "Index Numbers of Indian Prices" (1861-1931) with annual addenda issued by the same Department gave continuous series of index numbers of wholesale prices with reference to the year 1873 as the base. The data were mainly based on the reports received from selected commercial bodies at the important market centres. The compilation of these index numbers has been discontinued from 1940. A considerable volume of price data for the period 1890-1912 was collected and published in the "Report on the Enquiry into the Rise of Prices in India" by K. L. Datta (1914). Another price series, *viz.*, "Wholesale prices of certain selected articles at various centres in India" was published in the Indian Trade Journal from January, 1931, to September, 1939 and subsequently as a separate publication. This series was discontinued from 1950. Another Index number of wholesale prices of principal commodities at Calcutta till recently compiled by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics with 1914 as the base-period, gives a fairly continuous picture of the price trends over a long period. This series is now compiled by the State Statistical Bureau, Government of West Bengal, since July, 1951.

2. 2. Prices collected upto 1948.—Before World War II, the price data collected and published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics related only to a few important markets. During World War II, controls and restrictions were imposed over the movement of some agricultural commodities, particularly foodgrains. The country was divided into a number of zones each of which was insulated from the others. The Central Government assumed responsibility for maintaining prices of foodgrains within certain limits. A correct appreciation of the price trends in each zone, therefore, became essential for implementing this policy. The price data collected by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics did not adequately meet these needs and the then Department of Food started collecting prices from a large number of centres all over the country. The then Central Department of Agricultural Marketing was also collecting wholesale prices of principal agricultural commodities. The scope of these data was however restricted as they were confined to a few important markets in each case. After the introduction of controls and the disappearance of open markets, the data collected by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department got curtailed. In 1948, all this work was centralized in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

2. 3. Data collected by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.—The Directorate reviewed the position in the light of the increased requirements mentioned above. Towards the beginning of 1948, the need was felt to keep a close watch over the trends in foodgrains prices as affected by the policy of decontrol. It became necessary then to study the trends and levels of prices in the rural and urban areas of the different surplus, self-sufficient and deficit regions of the country. Arrangements were made to obtain, regularly, requisite data relating to wholesale prices of cereals and gram from about 600 centres distributed all over the country, every week, by telegrams. Towards the end of 1948, with the re-imposition of controls on cereals and gram and the consequent closure of open markets, In the middle of 1952, after the relaxation of controls, it again became necessary to obtain the data from a large number of centres.

2. 4. At the present time, the Directorate receives about 1,200 quotations from nearly 500 centres every week in respect of wholesale prices of the principal cereals and gram as shown below :—

Rice	342
Wheat	257
Jowar	158
Bajra	102
Maize	92
Ragi	35
Barley	77
Gram	137
TOTAL	1,200

These centres are distributed all over the country and are representative of important *mandis*, rural and urban, producing and consuming, surplus, deficit and self-sufficient regions. The prices relate to the closing quotations of the last day of the week, *viz.*, Saturday. The connotation of the term 'wholesale price' has been defined and communicated to all the primary reporters. The wholesale prices relate to delivery ex-godown for naked grain of the coarse variety, exclusive of incidental charges. The prices relate to open market quotations on Saturday and when there are no transactions on Saturday, the prices ruling on the previous working day are given. The data are generally received by telegrams and are issued in the form of a cyclostyled Bulletin on "Wholesale Prices of Foodgrains" for official use within the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and by selected Offices of other Departments of the Government of India.

2. 5. Primary agency for the collection of data.—The Directorate collects the price data through primary agencies nominated by the State Governments. These agencies are not uniform and the staff employed in each State depends on the administrative set-up of that State. In many States the revenue authorities collect and maintain data on prices as part of their normal duties and also report prices to the Directorate. With the growth of Civil Supplies and Marketing Departments in some States during recent years, these agencies are being employed for the reporting of prices to both the Centre and the States. For example, in U.P. the Market Intelligence staff belonging to the Food and Civil Supplies Department report some price

data, while in West Bengal a large volume of price data are reported by the staff of the Food and Supplies Department. In some States, two or three different agencies report the prices for different centres depending on the availability of staff.

2. 6. Checking and supervision.—Although the importance of supervision of price reporting has been recognised, it has not been possible for the Central Government to organise this supervision. It has been depending on whatever supervision is exercised by the normal administrative agencies in the States. However, as soon as the price returns are received, they are scrutinised for their completeness. The quotations for the current week are compared with those of the previous week as well as with the trends in nearby centres. Any abnormal or significant variations are generally referred back to the primary reporters for reconciliation and the reasons for the variations are asked for. The trends indicated by the official prices are compared with those of prices collected regularly from non-official agencies such as the Imperial Bank, the Press, the Commercial Bulletins, etc.

2. 7. Scope of the data.—The list of centres for each cereal and gram had been selected in consultation with the State Governments concerned. The Committee examined this list. At the time when the collection of these price data was first started there was genuine need for obtaining such a large number of quotations. For the present requirements, however, the number of centres is considered too large and there is scope for reducing it considerably.

2. 8. As regards the wholesale prices of agricultural commodities other than cereals and gram, in all only 350 quotations are obtained in respect of about 75 different commodities and are published in the "Weekly Bulletin of Agricultural Prices", issued by the Directorate. Practically every important commodity is covered by this list; but the number of quotations for some of the commodities seems to be inadequate and needs to be enlarged. Further, there are a few omissions such as mesta, lemongrass oil, tamarind, cloves, myrobalans, bran, bone-meal, etc.

2. 9. Dissemination.—The "Weekly Bulletin of Agricultural Prices" is the primary source for wholesale agricultural prices and is published every Saturday. Weekly prices for a few of the more important commodities are also published in the monthly journal "Agricultural Situation in India" issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics. An annual publication, "Indian Agricultural Price Statistics", also issued by the Directorate, gives month-end wholesale prices for a large number of commodities in each State. Further, daily wholesale prices of principal agricultural commodities at Hapur are broadcast over the All India Radio. Besides, a weekly Market Report, giving the prices of selected food and cash crops at specified centres is broadcast over the All India Radio every Monday.

2. 10. Data collected by other Central Agencies.—Apart from the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, data on wholesale prices are collected by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry who prepares the official Index Number of Wholesale Prices every week, the details of which are discussed in Chapter V. The weekly prices, together with the index numbers of wholesale prices for individual

commodities as well as for the different groups are issued in the form of a weekly Bulletin. The Reserve Bank of India also collects some data on wholesale prices mainly from the Branches of the Imperial Bank of India and the Chambers of Commerce. These data are intended for official use and are not published. The Central Statistical Organisation also publishes the Economic Advisers' Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices for the different sub-groups in its Monthly Abstract of Statistics. The Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics at present collects some data in respect of cotton, jute, hides and skins, oilseeds and oils, shellac, sugar, gur, coffee, tea, rubber and wool, and publishes them in the Indian Trade Journal. These are supplied by the different Chambers of Commerce, Mill Owners' Associations, Imperial Chemical Industries, Indian Coffee Board, Indian Institute of Sugar Technology, etc. The Collectors of Customs at the different Ports also compile some price data in respect of commodities figuring in the import-export trade. They determine, by test checks, the correctness or otherwise of the real value as defined in the Sea Customs Act and as declared in the Bills of Entry or in Shipping Bills. In respect of commodities on which cess is collected under the Agricultural Produce Cess Act, information on prices is collected on the basis of enquiries made in the local markets at the Ports by the Appraisers of the Customs Department.

2. 11. Data collected through the National Sample Survey.—Attention should also be drawn to a different type of price series collected by the Directorate of National Sample Survey in the Department of Economic Affairs. The Investigators employed in the National Sample Survey collect weekly wholesale and retail prices of 32 articles in selected rural and urban centres distributed all over the country. Each rural Investigator has in his charge four villages and each urban investigator, five urban blocks. During the period of investigation the investigator stays in and reports for each village or urban block for a period of four or three weeks respectively. As such, the price data for each centre are available continuously for 3 or 4 weeks only; and at any point of time only one-fourth of the total number of villages and only one-fifth of the urban blocks included in the National Sample are covered by the price data. In view of the random and representative character of the Sample, the price data may give an over-all picture of the price situation in the country. However, there is a serious gap in this price series. Between the two rounds of Sample Surveys, when the Investigators are withdrawn for training for 4 to 6 weeks, no price data are collected.

2. 12. Data collected by the Central Commodity Committees.—Apart from the Central Organizations mentioned earlier, the Central Commodity Committees and the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology collect some price data in their respective spheres through their own agencies in selected market centres. Where such agencies are not available, they employ State Departments or Trade Organizations, Chambers of Commerce, etc., for price reporting. A note on the data collected by the different Commodity Committees is given in Appendix VII.

2. 13. Data collected by States through revenue agency.—Data on wholesale prices are also collected in a majority of the States for a long time. The State Revenue Departments need information on

prices for purposes of periodical land revenue settlement operations. In some of the States, the District Collectors are required to indicate the current price position in the periodical Season and Crop Reports. In Northern India, particularly in Punjab, price data are also being collected by the revenue agency at Cantonment stations mainly for the use of military authorities. Thus, for one reason or the other, in most of the States the Revenue agency has been associated with price collection work for a long time. While a part of this information is not published, a large number of States have been publishing the price data in their respective State Gazettes.

2. 14. Data collected through Civil Supplies Departments.—After the setting up of the Departments of Food and Civil Supplies in the States during World War II, data on prices of foodgrains and other controlled commodities came to be collected for the internal use of these departments. These data are collected through their own staff or through the revenue agency and are not generally published. After the abolition of food controls and the Departments of Food and Civil Supplies, this type of price data will no longer be required or collected. The nature and contents of the price data collected by this agency vary from State to State depending on the requirements as well as the pattern of controls prevailing in the State. For example, in Bombay, since the relaxation of controls on foodgrains from January 1953, the Civil Supplies Department started collecting the wholesale prices of decontrolled grains from derationed towns and taluka/mahal headquarters towns. In Punjab, the Civil Supplies Department maintains a record of the daily prices of important commodities.

2. 15. Data collected by Marketing Departments.—Another important agency collecting prices is the Marketing Department. In West Bengal, PEPSU and Mysore where Agricultural Marketing Departments are fairly well developed, the price data are collected through these organisations. In other States the Marketing Departments only supplement the data collected through other agencies. In Hyderabad, the Marketing Department is collecting extensive data on prices but is not publishing them. In States where the Marketing Department has no extensive field staff spread in the districts, e.g., Bihar, Bombay and Orissa the price collection is confined to only a few selected commodities in the Capital cities and important towns.

2. 16. Data collected by Economics and Statistics Departments.—In addition to the foregoing agencies, the field staff of the State Economics and Statistics Departments collect price data, as part of their normal duties, in the States of U.P., Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat and Travancore-Cochin. In U.P., the Junior Economic Intelligence Inspectors collect wholesale price data from all the District Headquarters towns. In Madhya Bharat, the investigators of the Economic Intelligence and Statistics Department collect data only in respect of two centres, viz., Gwalior and Indore, while in Rajasthan, wholesale prices at Jaipur alone are reported by computers of the Bureau of Statistics.

2. 17. Duplication of effort.—A large mass of data on wholesale prices is collected through a variety of primary agencies at various levels, viz., the Centre, the State Governments and the district authorities. There are many instances of overlapping and duplication. At the same centre two or more primary agencies often collect and

submit information to different organisations. Further, the methods of collection, the analysis and the utilization of price data leave much to be desired.

2. 18. Primary reporting agencies.—The primary reporters are generally subordinate officials belonging to various departments referred to in the preceding paragraphs. Most often, price collection forms only one of the multifarious minor duties of the primary reporter with the result that he hardly evinces any interest and finds the necessary time for it. Often, he does not collect prices himself but leaves it to some subordinate personnel under him.

2. 19. Supervision.—The collection of price data is generally a part-time work for the primary reporters. The immediate superior officers are supposed to inspect their work of price collection. In practice, however, there is little or no supervision over this work. During our visits we came across only two States where arrangements for supervision appeared to be working fairly satisfactorily. In Madhya Pradesh, the Prices Current Inspectors, who are whole-time officers appointed only for the supervision of price statistics, inspect periodically the prices reported by the revenue agencies. In U.P. also, arrangements exist for the supervision of price collection work of the Economic Intelligence Inspectors by Senior Inspectors. This supervision is done by surprise, i.e., without prior intimation to the primary reporter. We examined the inspection reports in both the States and found that they had been checked and that appropriate action had been taken by superior officers. From the replies received to the Questionnaire, we were informed that similar arrangements existed for the supervision of the work in PEPSU and Travancore-Cochin. But, in a majority of the cases, we came to the conclusion that hardly any supervision was exercised over the work of collection of prices.

2. 20. Price Collecting Authorities in the States.—As regards the agencies responsible for the compilation of price data at the State Headquarters, except in one or two States, generally two or three authorities are responsible for this work, each compiling the data collected through its own primary agency. In Madras, Bihar and Saurashtra, the entire price collection work is centralised in the Central Statistical Bureau or Department. In Punjab, a decision has been taken to centralize the work in the Office of the Economic and Statistical Adviser. In other States, the data collected by the Civil Supplies Departments are compiled in those Departments either as part of normal secretariat work or under a separate Statistician as in West Bengal and Bombay. The data collected by the Revenue Department are compiled by different organisations in different States. In Assam and Orissa, the Director of Agriculture compiles the data. In Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, the data are compiled by the Director of Land Records. In Bombay, the data are compiled by the Statistician to the Department of Agriculture. The data collected through the Marketing staff are compiled in the Marketing Department itself. It is difficult at present, in most States, to refer to any single authority which has the primary responsibility for collecting prices except perhaps in Madras, Bihar, Saurashtra and Punjab.

2. 21. Coverage of the data.—The coverage of the data also varies from State to State. In most of the Part A States and some of the Part B States, the wholesale price data are comprehensive and cover

all the agricultural commodities important from the point of view of the State. There are, however, a few States where the coverage is inadequate and needs to be expanded. For example, in Bihar, wholesale prices of some of the important cash crops, *e.g.*, jute and tobacco, are not collected by any agency at present. There are a number of other minor agricultural and forest products, livestock and fisheries which are commercially important and for which prices are not collected in many States. In many cases, the centres for which prices are reported are not selected with sufficient care. The number of centres for which prices are reported is generally either too large or too small. Sometimes the particular centre chosen is not an important market for the commodity concerned. The selection of centres is also often not based on a proper classification of markets into various types—primary, secondary and terminal.

2. 22. Data on market arrivals.—In order to assess the relative importance of markets, it is necessary to have data on the volume of transactions or at least on the arrivals in the markets. In States where regulated markets have been established or where marketing surveys have been conducted, this information exists and is fairly reliable. For other markets, a rough and ready criterion of judging the importance of a market would be the volume of movements by rail of the commodities from railway station or stations near the market. One serious limitation of this method is that it does not take into account the movements by road or waterways which may be quite heavy. Even the information regarding the movements by rail is not compiled at present in respect of important markets.

2. 23. Specification of variety and quality.—Generally speaking, the varieties and qualities of the commodity to which the price should relate are not specified although in some States the trade descriptions are mentioned. In a few States, specific instructions have been given which indicate the procedure for reporting of prices. In these States it has been stipulated that the price should relate to a specified variety and if that variety is not available, the variety should be substituted by another for which prices are available. In U.P., this change has to be approved by the Director of Economic Intelligence and Statistics. In Madras, whenever substitution takes place, the prices of both varieties are required to be quoted at the time of the change-over. But, in some States, even the specification is not done properly. For instance, we came across one case of specification of rice as 'arwa' which is only a local name for raw rice and does not refer to any specific variety or quality. The weekly prices thus are not often strictly comparable over a period of time. Sometimes they show very large and sudden variations which are often due to varietal and quality differences rather than to genuine factors of supply and demand. Further, the connotation of the term "wholesale price" does not seem to be clearly defined in most cases. Even when it has been so defined, it has not always been fully comprehended by the primary reporters.

2. 24. Periodicity of quotations.—There is a large diversity in the periodicity of collection of price data. Wholesale prices are collected on daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis. The time reference also differs from State to State. Generally the prices are collected on a fixed day of the week. In many States this day is Saturday. But in Punjab and PEPSU the prices relate to Wednesday,

and in U.P., to Friday. In West Bengal, they relate to the last market day of the week. In the case of the data collected from the regulated markets in Bombay, the average of the daily prices is taken to represent the weekly price. In some, e.g., Hyderabad, the maximum and minimum prices during the week are reported. The fortnightly prices generally relate to the last day of each fortnight. In the case of monthly prices reported in the Taluk Forms in Bombay, the average of the quotations on the 1st and the 16th is taken to represent the monthly price; in West Bengal, it is the average of four weekly quotations.

2. 25. Specification of time-reference.—The specification of time to which the data relate is also not uniform in all the States. In some States like Madhya Pradesh, Madras, U.P. and Saurashtrā, the prices relate to the closing transactions on the specified collection days. The data collected by the Civil Supplies Department, Bombay, relate to the prices as prevailing in the afternoon while the Marketing Research Officer, Bombay, reports the most common price ruling in the day in the regulated markets. In Punjab also, the most common price for the day is reported. In West Bengal, the data collected by the Marketing Department relate to the peak hour's transaction. In most other States, no specific time reference has been laid down. Due to the absence of specific arrangements for supervision, even in States where this has been specified, there is no means of verifying whether the time fixed has been adhered to.

2. 26. Publication and processing.—As already mentioned, most of the price data are at present published in the Gazettes of the respective States, e.g., Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal, Mysore, Rajasthan, Coorg, Bhopal and Delhi. Besides, in the States of Orissa, West Bengal, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh special Bulletins of Agricultural Prices are brought out. In U.P., Madhya Bharat and PEPSU, data on prices are published in the Statistical Bulletins issued by the State Bureaus. There are a few States, e.g., Hyderabad, Saurashtra and some of the Part 'C' States, where the data collected are not published anywhere.

2. 27. Further, there is considerable time-lag in the publication of price data. In many States the data are published so late that the very object of publication is defeated. In one case, the price data for June were published in the Gazette of November after a time-lag of about five months. Some of the delays in publication are attributed by the authorities to delays in printing.

2. 28. The data are also not available continuously, there being gaps in the data published. Often, no quotations are reported for weeks together and when reports are not received in time, no attempt is made to compile and publish the missing information in subsequent weeks.

2. 29. Mostly the data are published as they are received without any further processing. In the States of Madras, Bihar, Punjab, Orissa, U.P., West Bengal, Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Mysore and PEPSU, index numbers of wholesale prices are compiled and published, although the scope and coverage of the index numbers vary widely and there is need for technical improvements in the construction of these indices.

SECTION B.—RETAIL PRICES

2. 30. Data collected by the Labour Bureau.—The principal organization at the Centre interested and responsible for the collection of retail prices is the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour, which compiles the index numbers of working class cost of living and of retail prices at selected industrial, rural and urban centres. Eighteen series of working class cost of living index numbers in respect of Delhi, Ajmer, Jamshedpur, Jharia, Dehri-on-Sone, Monghyr, Cuttack, Berhampur, Gauhati, Silchar, Tinsukia, Ludhiana, Akola, Jabalpur, Kharagpur, Mercara, Madras plantation centres and Bhopal are compiled and published by the Labour Bureau. These centres are intended to supplement those for which reliable cost of living index numbers are being compiled and published by the State Governments. These index numbers purport to measure the trends in the over-all changes from the level in the year 1944 (which is the base-period*) of retail prices of goods and services that enter into working class expenditure as revealed by the Family Budget Enquiries carried out at these centres during the years 1944 and 1945. The retail prices are generally obtained through part-time staff belonging to the Departments of Labour, Industries and Supplies, Revenue, etc. Apart from the cost of living index numbers, the Labour Bureau also compiles and publishes in the Indian Labour Gazette simple retail price relatives of certain selected articles including food items at 18 urban and 12 rural centres.

2. 31. Data collected by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.—The Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is also collecting retail prices in respect of a limited number of articles and publishing them in the Weekly Bulletin of Agricultural Prices. The articles covered by this price series are vegetables, fresh and dry fruits, fish and livestock products and the quotations relate to certain important consuming centres such as Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Kanpur, Nagpur, Lucknow, Delhi and Patna. In consuming centres, the retail prices of these commodities are relatively more important than their wholesale prices and this is the reason why these are being published in the Weekly Bulletin of Agricultural Prices. The prices are collected on every Saturday and are reported generally by the staff of the Civil Supplies Departments. The Directorate also collects retail prices in respect of a few other agricultural commodities, but these are used for official purposes only.

2. 32. Data collected by the States.—As in the case of wholesale prices, retail prices are also being collected in a majority of the States for a long time, mostly through revenue agencies. In most of the States, two or more Departments are collecting data often from different centres, but sometimes at the same centre. The data are collected at intervals of a week, fortnight or month. The time reference specified for the quotation also differs from State to State. Generally, the quotations relate to a particular day of the week in the case of weekly prices and to the last day of the fortnight in the case of fortnightly prices. The monthly prices are worked out by

* Except for centres—Mercara, Bhopal and plantation centres in Madras—for which the base-periods are July-December 1948, calendar year 1951 and January to June 1949, respectively.

averaging the weekly or fortnightly prices. In West Bengal, the prices relate to a single day of the month, this day differing from centre to centre depending on the convenience of the primary reporter. In Bombay, in the case of retail prices at district headquarters towns, the average of the four weekly prices is taken to represent the monthly price while in the case of tehsil headquarters, the prices reported in Taluk Form relate to averages of those prevailing on the 1st and 16th of each month. In the case of U.P., the monthly retail prices are taken as those ruling on the last Saturday of each month.

2. 33. Agency for collection.—Generally, the Revenue Departments collect the data on retail prices in accordance with the instructions laid down in the Land Records or Revenue Manuals. The Economics and Statistics Departments in the States where they exist also collect the retail price data through their field staff mainly for the construction of index numbers of cost of living or of retail prices. In some cases, retail prices prevailing at rural centres are collected for purpose of compilation of Index Numbers of Parity between prices received and prices paid by the farmer. With the growth of marketing organisations in the States, data on retail prices also began to be collected by the Marketing Departments as part of their normal duties. The Food and Civil Supplies Departments also collect data on retail prices. The Labour Departments in some States also obtain retail prices for studying the trends in the cost of living of labour classes. The data collected by the various agencies in the different States are described in the following paragraphs.

2. 34. Data collected by Revenue or Agriculture Departments.—In Madras, the weekly and fortnightly retail prices of foodgrains are collected and maintained by the taluk officials of the Revenue Department in a permanent register. At the State level, the Director of Statistics is responsible for the collection of these prices and for publication in the State Gazette. The Board of Revenue also gives retail prices in the Weekly Season and Crop Reports published in the Gazette. Fortnightly retail prices are also collected by the Directors of Agriculture in Assam and Orissa and Director of Land Records in Punjab and are published in the respective State Gazettes. In Punjab, weekly retail prices are collected and published in the weekly Weather and Crop Reports. In West Bengal price lists of staple foodgrains in local areas are compiled under the Bengal Tenancy Act by the Board of Revenue. These lists which contain monthly prices prevailing on a particular day of the month are published in the Calcutta Gazette once in three months. Similar data are compiled and published in the Orissa Gazette also once in three months. Monthly retail prices of various agricultural commodities are collected in Bombay by the revenue agency and maintained in Taluk Form in a permanent register. In Himachal Pradesh too, monthly retail prices for district headquarters towns are maintained by the revenue agency.

2. 35. Data collected by Economics and Statistics Departments.—The Economics and Statistics Department in U.P. collects the weekly and monthly retail prices through the Economic Intelligence Inspectors for the different commodities. These data are published in the monthly Bulletin of Statistics issued by that office. In Assam, the Department of Economics and Statistics collects weekly prices through

price collectors of the Department. In Bihar and Orissa, the Bureaus of Economics and Statistics collect weekly retail prices through the Civil Supplies staff. In Bihar, the information is published in the Gazette, while in Orissa it is published in the Weekly Bulletin of Prices. The staff of the Department of Economic Intelligence and Statistics in Madhya Bharat collects data on retail prices at Indore and Gwalior. In Hyderabad, the Department of Statistics collects daily rates of articles included in the cost of living index numbers from various district headquarters towns through the Price Investigators. In addition, fortnightly average retail prices are collected from tehsil headquarters through the revenue agency. The Bureau of Economics and Statistics in Bombay collects monthly retail prices at rural and urban market centres once a month, generally on the bazar day. These are being utilised by the State Government in the construction of index numbers of parity between prices received and prices paid by the farmer. In PEPSU, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics collects monthly retail prices as on the last day of the month through the secretaries of the market committees and tehsildars of the Revenue Department. The Statistics Department in Vindhya Pradesh collects fortnightly retail price data through the licensed weighmen. This information is published in the Gazette every fortnight. The Bureaus of Statistics in Rajasthan and Delhi also collect retail prices for Jaipur and Delhi respectively.

2. 36. Data collected through Marketing Departments.—The Marketing Departments in Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Ajmer and Bhopal also collect data on retail prices as part of their normal market intelligence work:

2. 37. Data collected by Food and Civil Supplies Departments.—The Food and Civil Supplies Departments of some States are also collecting retail prices of various agricultural commodities mainly for keeping an eye on the trends thereof. For example, in Bombay, since the relaxation of controls on foodgrains from January 1953, the Civil Supplies Department has been collecting weekly retail prices of de-controlled foodgrains from de-rationed towns and tehsil headquarters towns to study the working of the Government's revised policy of de-control. In U.P., West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh also, weekly retail prices of certain selected agricultural commodities are being collected by the Food and Civil Supplies Departments.

2. 38. Data collected by Labour Departments.—The Labour Departments in some States also collect the data on retail prices of various articles of common consumption from different centres selected mainly from the point of view of their industrial importance. In U.P., besides the retail price data for computing the cost of living index numbers for Kanpur, weekly retail prices of certain agricultural commodities are collected by the investigators of the Labour Department for seven centres and are published in the Labour Bulletin. Similarly, weekly retail prices are collected by the Labour Departments of West Bengal, Bihar and Mysore. In Bombay, working class cost of living index numbers are compiled for 4 industrial cities, viz., Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Jalgaon. Besides, retail price relatives of all items entering consumption of working classes are prepared in respect of 4 towns of Hubli, Surat, Poona and Dohad.

2. 39. It will be seen that the data on retail prices are collected by a variety of agencies in the different States. In West Bengal, as many as five departments collect them through their own field agencies. Although some of these organisations, *e.g.*, Bureaus of Economics and Statistics and Labour Departments have made arrangements for some supervision over the collection of prices, generally it is not adequate. In many instances, *e.g.*, the data collected through the revenue agency, there is practically no supervision at all. They also suffer from the general drawbacks regarding non-comparability due to the absence of specification of variety, quality, etc., as in the case of wholesale prices. For these reasons, the reliability of the data cannot be vouchsafed. However, where the data are required for preparation of cost of living index numbers on which are based the wages and dearness allowance, more care is taken and we believe the data are generally reliable.

SECTION C.—FARM PRICES

2. 40. **Farm Prices.**—Data on harvest prices of principal crops are available in the country for a fairly long time. These were formerly published in the "Agricultural Statistics of India" issued by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. Since 1948, this work has been taken over by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the data are now being published in the "Indian Agricultural Price Statistics" issued by the Directorate. The data are also published by the respective State Governments in their annual Season and Crop Reports. Till recently, however, the definition of the term 'harvest price' and the methods of collection and compilation adopted for this series were not uniform all over the country. In some States, the harvest prices were based on wholesale quotations while in others these represented the average retail prices during the harvesting period. The State average price was being obtained as a median average of the district prices. The data were not collected by many of the Part 'B' and 'C' States till 1950-51. The question of improvements necessary in the reporting of farm prices was examined in 1947 and a scheme for adoption by the State Governments was drawn up and circulated to States in December, 1947.

2. 41. **Scheme for improvement.**—Under this scheme, a uniform definition of the farm (or harvest) price has been laid down as follows :—

"The farm price may be defined as the average wholesale price at which the commodity is disposed of by the producer at the village site during the specified harvesting period."

The price data are to be collected every week from a selected number of villages, selected on a purposive basis, during the specified harvest period of six to eight weeks. The weekly prices are to be averaged into tehsil and district averages by taking their simple mean. The State average is to be worked out as a weighted average of the district prices with the production of the crop in the district as weights. All the States except U.P., Madras, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Saurashtra are now reporting according to this method. Of these, the last four have agreed in principle to this scheme and

are arranging for the collection of the data based on this method. These prices are generally collected through the same agency as that employed for the collection of agricultural statistics, *viz.*, revenue agency. In West Bengal and Bombay, however, the data are collected through agricultural inspectors and agricultural assistants respectively. In Travancore-Cochin the data are furnished by the field staff of the Board of Statistics.

2. 42. Besides the farm prices described above, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics is also collecting data on wholesale prices of principal crops during the harvesting season through non-official agencies mainly the Branches of the Imperial Bank of India from about 100 selected market centres. For each crop, a few centres have been selected and for each of these centres, weekly wholesale prices during the prescribed harvest season are obtained. A simple average of the weekly quotations is taken to represent the "harvest-season price" for that commodity at that centre. These are published in the monthly journal, "Agricultural Situation in India", issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

2. 43. **Index Numbers of Parity.**—The prices received by the farmers do not by themselves give an idea of the prosperity of the farmers unless these are studied in relation to the prices paid by them on items entering domestic and farm expenditure. Changes in the relative levels of prices received and prices paid by the farmers in relation to a base-period, can best be measured by the index of parity between these two. A proposal for constructing such an index number of parity was formulated in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on the model of similar indices prepared in the U.S.A. and circulated to the States in 1947. A copy of the model scheme is given in Appendix VIII. It was proposed that the index numbers should first be compiled for each State separately and then integrated into an index for the country as a whole. So far, only the States of Assam, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal and Travancore-Cochin have started the compilation of the indices. A number of other States, *e.g.*, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad and Delhi have agreed to compile these indices and are taking steps to collect the preliminary data. The main difficulty in compilation of these indices is the absence of requisite basic information in the base-period. Consequently, the base-period adopted for the index varies from State to State.

CHAPTER III

SOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH PRICE REPORTING

3. 1. Various aspects of price collection.—With a view to ensure the collection of price data on a uniform basis, it is necessary to lay down standard definitions and prescribe uniform procedures for collection. This involves, *inter alia*, the specification of the stage of marketing, the variety, the quality, the unit of quotation, etc. The time of quotation and the frequency of collection have also to be specified. The technical problems involved in these aspects of price collection are discussed in this Chapter.

3. 2. Objective of price collection.—The type of price data required depends on the purpose for which the information is desired. In this connection, a distinction can be made at the outset between the data required by the Government generally for policy-making and administrative purposes and that required by trading organisations, whether private or public. Broadly speaking, the Government needs data not only for the formulation of current policy and for the planning of future programmes but also for the assessment of progress in the implementation of these policies and plans. This involves an assessment of the current price position as well as the outlook for the future. In this context the trends in price levels are relatively more important than the absolute prices. On the other hand, the trading organisations need the data for their day-to-day business of sale and purchase. Their interest is more in actual prices than in the trends thereof. Apart from the collection of data required for its own needs, the Government has the wider responsibility to supply prices to the public, the producers, the traders and the consumers.

3. 3. Types of prices.—Between the stage at which it leaves the farmer and that at which it reaches the ultimate consumer, an agricultural commodity is often exchanged several times at different types of prices. The price which the farmer gets at the village is known as the 'farm price'. The price which the ultimate consumer pays, specially for relatively small transactions is the 'retail price'. The prices in between these two are known as 'wholesale' prices. It is possible to distinguish three types of 'wholesale' prices according as the commodity passes through the primary, secondary or terminal markets. For price support policy, the Government is more interested in the prices received by the farmer. For enforcing Price Control, the Government is interested in the retail price paid by the consumer. The margin between the primary wholesale price and the farm price is accounted for by the incidental charges such as *arhatdar's* commission, charges for bagging, weighment, storage, transport, etc. The difference between the terminal wholesale price and the ultimate retail price is similarly composed of retailer's profit, transport, storage, packing and other incidental expenses. These margins assume special significance when they tend to become excessive and appropriate action has to be taken to reduce them. Generally, however, the trends of the primary wholesale prices are nearest to the trends of prices received by the farmer while the trends of the terminal wholesale prices are nearest to the trends of retail prices.

3. 4. Scope of the system of wholesale prices.—The system of wholesale price data proposed to be established should obviously cover representative prices at all stages of commercial transactions since price movements and price levels vary from stage to stage. This would necessitate the collection of prices at representative primary, secondary and terminal markets. There is, however, one difficulty in the reporting of prices in the primary markets. The arrivals at the smaller primary markets are generally seasonal and no transactions may take place for relatively long periods. In selecting primary markets, therefore, while the importance of the market from the point of view of transactions should be the main guiding factor, the availability of continuous price data should also be a criterion.

3. 5. The wholesale price is generally taken as the rate at which a relatively large transaction, usually for further sale, is effected. In the primary market, the rate quoted often relates to the purchase price of the buyer; and what the seller gets is the price at which the transactions take place minus the market charges, etc., although in some cases, some of the incidentals are paid by the buyers as well. Similarly even in the secondary and terminal markets the practice regarding the payment of incidentals by buyers and sellers varies from market to market. For example, the quotations of jowar and bajra at Delhi wholesale market are always inclusive of the charges for the bag and the bag is weighed along with its contents. On the other hand, in the U.P. markets, the quotations are exclusive of the cost of the bag and the bag is not weighed. In studying prices at two different centres, such differences in practice have to be kept in mind and duly allowed for. However, such distinction is not of much significance for purposes of price trends, provided the price quoted at the same market is reported uniformly on the same basis throughout.

3. 6. Price of a 'perfect commodity'.—Generally, when reference is made to the price of a commodity there is an implicit assumption that the commodity is homogeneous, i.e., each unit thereof is a perfect substitute of any other unit, or, that it is a 'perfect commodity'. In practice, however, this assumption rarely holds good, particularly in transactions of agricultural commodities. Taking for instance rice, there are different varieties each known by a different name, e.g., basmati, begmi, etc., the price of each is generally different from that of the other. Even if these varieties may broadly be classified into two or three categories, viz., first sort and second sort or coarse, medium and fine, within each category, different varieties of rice sell at different prices. Apart from differences between varieties, there are variations within a variety due mostly to differences in quality of the grain, depending on a number of considerations such as brokenness, moisture content, refraction percentage, foreign matter, etc., which give rise to variations in price. Thus, instead of a single price for a commodity we may get a range of prices, the magnitude of which depends on the imperfections indicated above.

3. 7. Specification of variety and quality.—When the objective is to compare the trends in prices, obviously it is not convenient to compare two ranges at two different points of time. It is therefore necessary to specify two single quotations, the quotation being defined as the price of a well-defined variety and quality under given circumstances of sale. For purposes of price reporting, it is therefore

necessary to specify a particular variety and quality and to stipulate that prices should be reported for this variety and quality throughout. In actual practice, however, difficulties arise in defining and obtaining the prices of fair average quality of the specified variety continuously throughout the year. We have noticed that often the specification actually adopted refers to the broad categories—fine, medium or coarse—and no attempt is made to specify the variety and quality also. In cases where these are specified and no transactions take place in these particular varieties, the practice is to report a series of N.Q.'s (*i.e.*, no quotations or no transactions). Sometimes, the solution adopted for solving the difficulty when a number of varieties are on the market simultaneously, is to consider a few of them, get their quotations and work out an average. Another solution adopted is to take the price of the variety most commonly transacted on the assumption that this more or less corresponds to the weighted average price. These cannot be regarded as scientific; in both cases the variations in two successive quotations may be due to varietal differences as well, and not entirely to genuine factors of supply and demand.

3. 8. This problem has been studied in some detail by the Committee with special reference to rice during its visits to different States. The criterion for selecting the variety should be whether it is most commonly transacted. Where such a variety is expected to be available in the market throughout the year, there is no further difficulty and this should be chosen as the 'prescribed' variety for that centre. But we have seen that often a large number of varieties, sufficiently important from the point of view of transactions, are available in the market; and it is difficult to find one specific variety for which arrivals or transactions could be ensured continuously throughout the year. This was the situation in the Vellore market which we visited in Madras. We found that, even amongst rice, second sort, there were as many as five varieties ranging in price from annas 9 to annas 13 per 'Madras measure', on the same day. In this case, the problem arises when the specified variety chosen ceases to arrive in the market either temporarily or permanently. The solution in such a case appears to be to choose the variety most commonly transacted, which is as close as possible to the variety originally fixed. Further, it is desirable to examine, in advance, for each commodity and for each market, the different varieties which are most commonly transacted and to fix up a range of three or four varieties close to one another from which one could be taken when the variety originally fixed disappears from the market. Whenever the change in variety takes place, it should be stipulated that the prices of the new variety prevailing in the previous one or two weeks should also be reported in order to enable a comparison of price trends and splicing of price relatives, if necessary. In the extreme case, however, when no such substitute is available, recourse might be had to the nominal price of the specified variety on the assumption that if it had actually been on sale the transaction would have taken place at that price.

After prescribing the variety or varieties it is necessary to specify the quality also. The general practice is to report prices for the fair average quality. This quality should be specified for each variety of the commodity and for each market and the prices should be uniformly reported for this quality.

3. 9. Old and new crops.—There is yet another problem which arises when the new crop comes into the market. For some time, both new and old crops are marketed simultaneously and there is difference between the prices of the two, the new crop being quoted lower or higher than the old crop depending upon the commodity. In such cases we suggest that the quotations for the new crop should be reported as soon as it is reasonably certain that its arrivals will be fairly continuous. The change in prices resulting from this substitution can partly be explained by the differences in quality and partly by the changes in the volume of supplies or anticipated supplies of the new crop. In the transition period, say for four to six weeks, the prices of the new and the old crops should be quoted simultaneously.

3. 10. Specification of time.—Even when the variety and quality are specified there are variations in the quotations through time due to genuine factors of demand and supply. Generally, four possible types of quotations are distinguishable, *viz.*, opening, closing, maximum and minimum. The opening quotation represents the anticipation of current day's supply and demand position and is not influenced directly by the day's supply and demand factors. The closing quotation is the resultant of the supply and demand position of the current day. The maximum and minimum levels attained during the day represent the maximum range between the extreme points of equilibrium at the different times of the day depending again on the factors of demand and supply operating at the respective points of equilibrium. The need for fixing a particular time of quotation arises out of the fact that the trends should not be vitiated by comparing the maximum of one day with the minimum or even average of another.

3. 11. Generally, the closing quotation is preferred because it represents the final quotation of the day and relates to a fixed point of time although it may be that no large transactions have taken place at this price. The range of maximum and minimum quotations is not of much use for determining the trends of prices. The mid-point of the range has no particular significance. Nor has the opening quotation any particular value. An alternative which is preferred by some agencies is to take into consideration the quotation or range of quotations prevailing during the peak market period when the bulk of the transactions take place. Where even during this period there does not exist a single quotation, but only a range of quotations, the modal price, *i.e.*, the one at which most of the transactions are settled, should be quoted. The peak period, however, need not be the same hour of the day, throughout the season or the year. This factor should be borne in mind and the peak period should be determined from time to time for each market.

3. 12. Frequency of price collection.—The next important question is the periodicity of collection of wholesale prices. The daily prices are needed only by those who are interested in the buying and selling of particular commodities. For administrative purposes, day-to-day quotations are not generally necessary. In periods of emergency when prices show a steep fall or rise, the collection of day-to-day prices may assume importance and for such occasions special arrangements have to be made. On the other hand, a fortnight or a month is too long a period since during such intervals wide variations or

fluctuations can take place in the price situation. A week, therefore, appears to be the most suitable period for wholesale prices and the prices reported should relate to a specified day of the week.

3. 13. We suggest that wholesale prices may be collected as on Friday every week when the market is held every day. If Friday is a holiday for the market, the prices should be reported as on the nearest working day. Ordinarily, any day of the week should be as good as any other day. But some advocate that Saturday is more suitable since the price on that day represents the week-end quotation. There are some practical considerations which have to be taken into account in fixing the day. The essence of price reporting lies in the timeliness with which the data are made available. If the data are collected as on Saturdays and if there is some delay in posting the return the same day, they can be posted only on Monday and if two days are taken in reaching the headquarters, it would reach them on Wednesday. If Friday is selected as the price reporting day, the primary reporter can post the return on Saturday if not on Friday itself and there can be some certainty of the information reaching Headquarters by Monday.

3. 14. While this should be the general practice, an exception should be made for markets which are held on specified days of the week. This practice is still common in many States, in respect of primary markets, and also in respect of a few secondary markets. If a particular day is fixed for price reporting it may so happen that there may be no transactions on that day, if it is not the market day ; and even if some transactions take place on that day they may be relatively unimportant. Generally, the price on the last market day prevails till the day the market is held again. For such centres it would be desirable to take the price on the market day immediately preceding the prescribed day, e.g., Friday. Whatever be the day of the week prescribed, the prices should ordinarily continue to be quoted on the same day every week.

3. 15. **Nominal price.**—Ideally, the quotation reported should relate to the value of unit of goods actually exchanged. Yet the twin requirements of continuity and comparability of quotations may in certain cases require the reporting of probable prices even when no transactions have actually taken place, or in other words "nominal" prices. In this event, two alternatives are open. The first is to quote the price of the last transaction in the specified variety and quality, although it may be on the previous day. The second is to take this quotation and make allowances for observed trends in other varieties or trends in neighbouring markets. We were told that when the traders quoted nominal quotations they usually based them on the second principle. While the objective should be to ensure that prices quoted should relate as far as possible to actual quotations, in the interest of continuity, 'nominal' quotations need not be ruled out. But they should be avoided as far as practicable.

3. 16. **Controlled versus open-market quotations.**—Another type of difficulty arises in the reporting of prices whenever there is a change from a system of control to decontrol or *vice versa* at the selected centres. Where statutory rationing is in force, it is obvious that the wholesale issue price for the ration shops should be reported as the price prevailing at the centre since bulk of the transactions will be then taking place at this price ; on the other hand, where fair

price shops are opened, open markets are also allowed and the control is only partial, the question arises as to which of the two prices should be reported, *viz.*, fair price or open market quotations. The ideal solution will be to collect both the prices and take a weighted average of the two with the quantum of transactions as weights. This is not always practicable as continuous data on the relative magnitude of transactions will not be available. However, fair price shops are opened only when the open market prices are higher than the rate at which the commodity could be offered at the fair price shops. In actual practice, if the number of fair price shops is large, if the quantity of the commodity offered is substantial and if the shops are situated in heavy demand localities, the price situation of the commodity is governed by the rates charged at the fair price shops. On the other hand, if the number of fair price shops is small, and these can meet only a fraction of the demand, the rates charged in the open market continue to be the real rates, so far as the bulk of the demand is concerned. However, at any given time, it would be difficult to say which of the two situations will prevail. A practical solution is to ask the reporter to quote regularly both the fair price shop and open market prices and also give a rough estimate, once in two months or so, of the relative proportion of transactions in the fair price shops and the open market. Fair price shop prices may continue to be used so long as the volume of transactions in these shops continues to be substantial, especially during the transition period from statutory rationing to free trade when open market prices have not become quite stable. The price quoted at the fair price shops should be the rate at which the grains are issued to the shops by the Government.

3. 17. Further, in some places, even when statutory controls are in force, the black market transactions may be taking place on an appreciable scale. In such cases it may be necessary to obtain, if possible, black market quotations also for confidential use by Government although the data may not be published. A study of the relative trends of controlled and black market prices might be a useful guide for administrative action.

3. 18. **Unit of quotation.**—There are a few other problems to which we desire to invite attention. The first is the unit of price quotation. The importance of standardizing the weights and measures in vogue as a pre-requisite to the development of agricultural marketing has already been recognised and steps are being taken in that direction in many States. Still in many areas we have noticed that local weights and measures are in vogue. Sometimes they differ from district to district in the same State. It is therefore necessary to prescribe a standard unit in terms of which the prices should be reported. This unit should usually be the standard maund of 82 $\frac{2}{7}$ lbs. in case of wholesale prices. In the case of commodities such as cotton and jute, the appropriate unit, *viz.*, the bale should be adopted. The primary reporter should collect the data in local units and then convert them into standard units, and report only the latter to the authorities at the Centre and the State Headquarters. It should be the job of the supervisory agency to verify during their inspection the accuracy of such conversions and also to prescribe the appropriate conversion factor, wherever necessary.

3. 19. **Limit of wholesale transaction.**—In the instructions issued in some States to the primary reporters regarding the wholesale

prices, we have noticed that an attempt is made to prescribe a limit on the quantity of transactions before a particular deal could be treated as wholesale. We feel that no hard and fast rule regarding quantity can or need be prescribed, as the wholesale transaction is clearly understood.

3. 20. Difference due to quantity of transaction and to shops.—Further, in the same market, and at the same time, the price at which a lot of one maund of grain is sold may be different from the price at which a lot of one hundred maunds of the same grain is sold. The difference between the two will however be very small and may have to be ignored in practice. So also the differences in prices between shops for the same grain will be small, provided they relate to the same quality and variety and to the same point of time. These differences will also have to be ignored. It is often suggested that in such cases prices should be obtained from a specified number of shops and an average of different prices should be worked out. This is, however, difficult in practice. Moreover, our enquiries revealed that most of the larger variations, if any, between prices prevailing in different shops for the same grain were generally due to differences in quality and grade.

3. 21. Proforma.—A proforma for the collection of wholesale prices of agricultural commodities is given in Appendix IX. For reporting prices to the State and Central Headquarters, the same form may be used except that the columns regarding local units might be omitted. The instructions for filling in the proforma are given in Appendix X on the basis of suggestions made in the preceding paragraphs.

CHAPTER IV

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

4. 1. Machinery for reporting prices.—One of our main terms of reference is to suggest improvements necessary in the machinery for reporting prices of agricultural commodities. In Chapter II, a description of the various agencies at present employed in the different States for the collection of different types of prices and broad defects thereof have been given. In this Chapter, we have made recommendations for the improvements in the machinery for the reporting and supervision of price collection, training of reporters and analysis of the data and their dissemination.)

4. 2. Criteria for the selection of agency.—The prices are to be quoted on the basis of actual enquiry at the market at a specified period of the day, once-a-week, supplemented by physical observation of a few major transactions. This work is not of such volume as to warrant the employment of a whole-time agency and has necessarily to be entrusted as part-time work to one or other of the existing agencies. But the difficulty of such an arrangement is that the agency concerned tends to pay less attention to this part-time work, especially when it has no direct relation with its main work and when the pressure of the latter becomes heavy. We feel, therefore, that any agency which is associated with the market in the normal course of its main duties and is intimately acquainted with the market conditions is the most suitable for purposes of price reporting at the primary level. It is an added advantage if the agency is located at or near the market itself. For, it will be then in day-to-day contact with prices, and will thus be able to report them objectively. Further, since the prices are to be reported as on a fixed day of the week, the reporters should not have touring duties which may prevent them from going to the markets on the appointed day. They should also be intelligent enough to understand and appreciate the significance of the connotation of the term 'price' and the procedure laid down for its collection.

4. 3. Staff of regulated markets—ideal agency.—In States where the Agricultural Produce Markets Act has been enacted and regulated markets have been established under the Act, the staff of the market committees situated in the markets seems to us to be the best agency for the reporting of prices. Unfortunately, however, the system of regulated markets has not developed adequately except in the States of Hyderabad, Punjab and PEPSU. In a few other States like Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Mysore regulated markets have been set up in respect of a few selected commodities at a very limited number of centres. In States like Madhya Bharat, although the Agricultural Produce Markets Act is on the Statute Book, it is not being enforced strictly. We, therefore, recommend that States which have not passed this Act should undertake the necessary legislation expeditiously and establish regulated markets at the more important marketing centres as early as possible. Then alone can a permanent and reliable agency be created for the recording and reporting of wholesale prices. In applying the Agricultural Produce

Markets Act, the State Governments should give priority to the centres selected by us for reporting prices to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (*vide* Appendix XI). In States where the coverage of the commodities in the regulated markets is limited, the Act should similarly be extended to all commodities which are commonly sold in the market.

4. 4. Need for regulated markets.—The main objective of regulated markets is, however, to ensure that the producer gets a fair share of the price and is not cheated by the middlemen, by ensuring open and fair auction of the produce brought to the market, and thus enabling free competition among buyers and sellers. The market charges are fixed at reasonable levels and unwarranted deductions are not allowed. The malpractices usually resorted to in the unregulated markets are also eliminated and smooth and honest trading is facilitated by the adoption of standard forms of contract. Weights and measures are standardized. Further, in well-managed regulated markets, attention is also paid to such amenities for the producers as the provision of places for resting and parking of vehicles, supply of drinking water to animals, facilities for cooking, etc. Long-term market improvements such as the provision of storage facilities and the construction of approach roads can also be undertaken. Maximum benefit from the regulated markets can be derived if, at each market, a co-operative ware-housing society is also established, the services of which the cultivator can utilize for storing his produce on occasions when he is unable to secure a fair price on the day he brings his produce to the market. The Planning Commission also have recommended that the Agricultural Produce Markets Act should be enacted in all the States and all the important markets in each State should be covered by the Act by 1955-56, *i.e.*, the end of the First Five Year Plan. They have also recommended the provision of ware-housing facilities at all the important *mandis*, preferably through co-operative agencies.

4. 5. System prevalent in Hyderabad.—While recommending the system of regulated markets we would like to draw attention to the comparative advantages of the different systems of regulated markets prevailing in the different States, which we had occasion to study during our visits. In the system in vogue in Hyderabad, for instance, in each regulated market, there is an officer belonging to the State Marketing Department. The market charges are levied on an *ad valorem* basis and are collected by the local staff of the State Marketing Department. Levy on an *ad valorem* basis seems to us to be more equitable, as it takes into account fluctuations in price as well as the type and quality of produce brought into the market. Moreover, if the levy is on an *ad valorem* basis, an added advantage from the price reporting point of view is that complete day-to-day records of each auction bid specifying the quantity of transaction and the price at which the auction has been settled are maintained for each commodity. In Hyderabad, the marketing staff located at each *mandi* also belong to the Marketing Department, and they being officials appointed by the Government are able to take a neutral position in disputes between the primary producer and merchant-members of the market committees and are thus better able to ensure that the objectives of regulated markets are fulfilled and malpractices are checked effectively. This is important in view of the fact that a large

number of elected market committees appear to be largely dominated by the representatives of merchants. Another feature of the Hyderabad system is that the revenues from the different markets are pooled and the expenditure on the headquarters organization as well as the market staff is met out of these funds. The advantage of this pooling is that the savings can be utilized more effectively for a planned development of all the regulated markets in the State. This would not be possible if each market were to levy market charges and spend the amounts within that market only. In the systems prevailing in Punjab and PEPSU, we found that the market committees were autonomous bodies, the staff belonged to the committees, the charges were levied and the funds were managed by them. Further, in Bombay, Madras, Mysore and Madhya Pradesh, the Act applies only to a few specified commodities at each market. We recommend that the States which have not yet enacted the Agricultural Produce Markets Act might study the Hyderabad system and follow the same, with such modifications as may be necessary in the light of local conditions. The other States which are at present following a different system might also examine the working of the Hyderabad system with a view to see what suitable improvements can be made in the existing arrangements.

4. 6. Marketing Staff also suitable.—Next to the staff of the regulated markets, we suggest that, wherever a well developed Marketing Department exists and has adequate field staff in the districts and sub-divisions or tehsils with local knowledge of the markets, as in West Bengal, they should be entrusted with the work of price collection, as an interim measure. Unfortunately, many States do not have well developed Marketing Departments either. In some States, we found that even though the marketing staff existed at district headquarters, they could not be used for the work of price collection since they had a number of developmental and inspection duties which necessitated their frequent touring in the districts.

4. 7. Staff of Economics and Statistics Departments.—In States where the Departments of Economics and Statistics have field staff in the districts and tehsils, we have considered the feasibility of employing this staff for price collection. To start with, they have been generally assigned touring jobs. Further, their main work has no relation with markets. Where, however, no marketing agencies are available, the economic intelligence staff could be entrusted with price reporting, as an interim measure.

4. 8. Revenue agency.—As regards the revenue agency, this will have to be continued, as an interim measure, at such centres where regulated market or other marketing staff does not exist. We have been made aware of the very inadequate attention paid by this agency to price reporting work. Where, however, no better alternative is available in the immediate future for financial or administrative reasons, we have suggested its continuance but only subject to certain improvements designed to enhance the reliability of the prices reported by it. The first of these measures is the provision for adequate and effective supervision over its work. The second is that the responsibility for price collection should be definitely fixed on a single specified person at the headquarters, *viz.*, the office kanungo or the revenue inspector in addition to the present practice of placing it nominally on the tehsildar or the Collector as the head of the Office.

Thirdly, the primary reporters should be trained properly in the collection of prices and the connotation of the term should be explained to them carefully. As and when the regulated markets are established, the staff of the market committees should take over the work of primary collection of price data from the revenue agency as well as from the other interim agencies mentioned earlier.

4. 9. The revenue agency is at present collecting the price data for the different purposes enumerated in paragraph 2.13. When, however, as recommended by us, market committees are established on a firm basis and entrusted with the work of price collection, we see no justification for burdening them with this function hereafter, particularly when they are not directly interested in the markets. We suggest that, even for the requirements of Revenue Administration, the District Collectors should utilize the data collected through marketing agencies rather than collect their own price data independently. We were advised that this arrangement would not come into conflict with the statutory obligations under the Tenancy Act, since, necessary amendments could be made in the rules under the powers delegated to the executive authorities.

4. 10. **Civil Supplies staff not suitable.**—Among the other agencies reporting prices at present, we consider that the Civil Supplies Departments are not suitable as a permanent agency, because they are mostly temporary organisations and are not likely to continue after the relaxation of controls. They may, however, continue to collect prices for their own requirements. But it would be desirable to ensure that the data collected by the Civil Supplies Department are properly co-ordinated with those collected by the Price Collecting Authority in the State recommended by us in paragraph 4.17. Care should also be taken to see that, on the disbandment of the Civil Supplies Department, alternative arrangements are made for the continued collection of such essential price data as may be required on a permanent basis for administrative purposes.

4. 11. **Non-official agencies.**—The agencies so far considered above are all official or officially sponsored. It may not be desirable, as a matter of policy, to base the entire official statistics of prices on data furnished by non-officials, e.g., traders or bankers, in view of the possible scope for biased reporting at certain periods. We would suggest, however, that each State should make it a point to collect prices of important commodities in a few selected centres through non-official agencies also. One such agency we have in mind is the Imperial Bank of India, the Pay Offices and Branches of which collect and furnish information to their headquarters as part of their general reports. In fact, this agency is being employed in Madras by the State Government for the reporting of wholesale prices. The advantage in obtaining two sets of prices for a limited number of centres is that a comparison of their trends could provide a very useful basis at headquarters for checking the accuracy of the prices reported by official agencies. If serious discrepancies between the trends of the two are regularly and promptly referred back to the source for reconciliation and explanation, it would help in toning up the work of the primary reporter.

4. 12. **Supervision of price collection.**—The main difficulty in the present system of reporting of agricultural prices is the general absence of any effective supervision except possibly in one or two

States. In Madhya Pradesh, where there are two Prices Current Inspectors for intensive supervision of the work of kanungos, the price data collected by the latter seem to be reasonably satisfactory. Whatever be the agency employed for the primary collection, it is essential that adequate arrangements should be made for effective supervision in all the centres. When regular supervision is provided for, it creates in the primary reporter the proper psychological frame of mind to do honest and accurate reporting. Further, it becomes possible to correct genuine mistakes committed by the primary reporter. In the regulated markets where the price data are reported by the marketing superintendents or secretaries to market committees, the inspection should be done by the officers of the Marketing Department. But where the revenue or other agency reports the price data, it is necessary to appoint whole-time Prices Current Inspectors as in Madhya Pradesh. These Inspectors should, on the basis of personal investigation, check up the accuracy of the information supplied by the primary reporters and send a report on the discrepancies, if any, to the tehsildar or any other immediate superior officer of the primary reporters. These superior officers should take necessary administrative action on these reports. We attach the utmost importance to the appointment of such Prices Current Inspectors as the only means of improving the reliability of the price data, particularly in areas where the revenue agency is employed as primary reporters. Each State should decide upon the number of Inspectors that will be needed in the light of their own requirements. We have, however, suggested, a number for each State on the basis of our discussions with the representatives of the State in the detailed recommendations concerning the State (*vide* Appendix VI).

4. 13. Permanent arrangements for supervision.—The appointment of Prices Current Inspectors is proposed as an interim arrangement. As regards the permanent arrangements for the supervision of price data, we recommend that in each district there should be a District Statistical Officer who should be entrusted with the task of supervision of all statistics, including agricultural statistics and agricultural prices. A variety of statistics in the fields of economic and other activities such as agriculture, education, health and vital statistics are at present being collected largely through primary agencies belonging to the Departments concerned. In order to improve the reliability and timeliness of these statistics, adequate supervision should be exercised over their collection, which would be possible only when a whole-time District Statistical Officer is appointed for this purpose. Realising the importance of the requisite quality of primary statistical data, the Conference of State Ministers for Agriculture and Co-operation held in September 1953 and the Joint Conference of Central and State Statisticians held in October 1953, also recommended the appointment of District Statistical Officers entrusted with the responsibility of checking up the primary data and helping all the agencies in the district in furnishing prompt and reliable statistics.

4. 14. The importance of accurate and up-to-date statistics is increasingly realized, particularly in the context of the Second Five-Year Plan. Various types of statistics are required for assessing the gaps between the existing resources and the anticipated requirements, for planning and executing the various programmes for development. In the whole range of statistics, statistics of prices

occupy a key position in a rapidly developing mixed economy. In the private sector, the price relationships are the prime factors determining allocation of resources and even in the public sector, the relation between costs and returns is very important. In the present context of the Second Five Year Plan, in particular, there is thus greater need than ever for accurate, up-to-date and representative price data in the formulation of a sound price policy. From this point of view, we attach great importance to the establishment of District Statistical Officers and Prices Current Inspectors. We express the hope that the District Collector and other concerned Officers would evince greater interest in the task of collection of reliable and timely statistics.

4. 15. Appointment of District Statistical Officers.—The District Statistical Officer should have proper technical qualifications and necessary training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre. As regards the department in which he should be placed, we would leave it to the administrative convenience of the States concerned. One view seems to be that since 80 to 90 per cent. of the work of this Officer is in the sphere of agricultural statistics, which are at present collected through the revenue agency, this Officer should belong to the Revenue Department and be under the administrative control of the Collector of the district. Another point of view is that he may be placed under the control of the Collector, but he should belong to the Bureau of Statistics, where it exists, and function as a common servicing statistical organisation for the different departments in the State. We have given careful thought to this and we recommend that this Officer should belong to a cadre of Statisticians and should be located at the headquarters of the district under the District Collector. In departmental matters, he can receive instructions direct from the different departments in respect of the statistics desired to be collected through their own agencies. He should be subject to over-all supervision, guidance and co-ordination from a Statistical Organisation at the State level. Each State, has, however, to consider the problem in relation to its own conditions and arrive at a satisfactory solution regarding the location of the Officers, etc. We would, however, like to emphasize one point. The District Statistical Officer should not normally be required to do any routine collection of statistics. His main function should be to supervise the work of the various primary collecting agencies and give them necessary technical guidance and training and also to co-ordinate their work at district headquarters. If he is burdened with routine collection of data, he will not be able to pay due attention to supervision and co-ordination and the very purpose of his appointment would be lost. We would like to stress that there is no ground for believing that there may not be enough work for these Officers if their functions are confined to supervision and co-ordination. There is enough work in most States for such an officer. The requirements of the Second Five Year Plan will increase it further to a very considerable extent.

4. 16. Training of reporting staff.—The proforma and instructions for adoption by the primary reporters have been given in Appendices IX and X. Before the primary reporters begin reporting prices, they should be adequately trained in the procedures of collection as outlined in Appendix X. Although elaborate instructions may be issued from time to time, it often happens that the primary

reporter has not even received the instructions or is not able to comprehend them correctly. In order to avoid this, the Prices Current Inspectors or other supervising officers should personally train each of the primary reporters individually or in groups and during their inspection they should satisfy themselves that the connotation and instructions are being followed strictly. In arranging for the training of the primary reporters, steps should be taken to ensure that if the reporter goes on leave or on transfer, his successor should also know the instructions and follow them.

4. 17. Duplication of effort.—We find that in many cases there is considerable duplication of effort within each State and that a number of different authorities are collecting prices often through different primary reporters in respect of the same commodities, each from their own point of view. Sometimes, even the centres selected for reporting are common and instances are not lacking when for the same centre the data furnished by the two different agencies are in conflict with each other. We suggest that this type of duplication should be avoided. In each State, only one agency should be designated as the Price Collecting Authority. He should collect and compile prices to satisfy all the regular requirements of the State. If any other agency requires information, it should first explore the possibility of utilising the data collected by the Price Collecting Authority. If this is not adequate, it should request the Price Collecting Authority to enlarge the scope. It is only when this is not feasible that it may arrange for independent collection to suit its own purposes. An example of the instance we have in mind is that where the Marketing Department has an elaborate agency and is collecting weekly prices, the Civil Supplies agency should try to utilise this information as far as practicable. If, however, the Civil Supplies Department wants daily quotations or quotations from a larger number of centres than will be possible for the Marketing Department to manage, they may arrange for their collection through their own agencies. As already suggested, the Revenue Department should also utilise the data as formally compiled by the Price Collecting Authority for their long term purposes.

4. 18. Requirements of price data at different levels.—Another kind of duplication is likely when the same primary reporter is asked to furnish different sets of returns to different authorities within the State and outside on the same or different dates. This also should be properly co-ordinated. Broadly, the requirements of price data can be divided into four categories. Firstly, at the district level, the District Collector requires information on prices in respect of tehsil headquarters and important market centres for an appraisal of the economic situation as well as for the long-term requirements of land revenue and settlement. Secondly, at State headquarters, the State Government requires data from a smaller number of centres probably 3 or 4 market centres and the district headquarters from each district, for the formulation and implementation of Government policies at the State level. Thirdly, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in the Government of India requires prices from a still smaller number of centres, say at the rate of one from each important producing or consuming district, for its own administrative purposes. Finally, the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry requires data from

a very limited number of centres for each commodity for the preparation of the Weekly Index Number of Wholesale Prices. In selecting the list of centres, these four broad categories of requirements should be kept in view. The first list should be inclusive of the second, the second inclusive of the third and finally the third should cover the fourth also, and each level should know what centres are included in the lists at other levels. Further, the nature of the markets, e.g., primary, secondary or terminal, should be specified against each market, in these lists. If the primary reporter prepares the requisite number of copies and sends them to the different authorities mentioned above, it will be possible to ensure absolute co-ordination and economy of effort and also to avoid confusion which may be created otherwise. If any other authority at State headquarters requires price data, it should obtain them from the Price Collecting Authority.

4. 19. Collection of data on market arrivals, etc.—In order to enable an assessment of the relative importance of different markets for the selection of centres at the different levels, data on arrivals of the various agricultural commodities into each market should be collected and maintained. In the absence of this information, at least statistics of movements by rail of these commodities to and from railway station or stations near the market should be collected through the railway authorities.

4. 20. Data received by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics.—We have noticed in Chapter II that the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is at present obtaining 1,200 wholesale price quotations for cereals and gram from 500 centres and 350 quotations in respect of 75 other agricultural commodities. If the recommendations made by us are implemented it should be possible to reduce the number of quotations in respect of cereals and gram to about 570. For other commodities however, it would be necessary to increase this number from 350 to about 500. In consultation with the State Governments we have prepared a list of centres from which the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should obtain prices for cereals and gram and for other agricultural commodities. This is given in Appendix XI. A smaller list of centres for the cereals sub-group has been proposed for the Economic Adviser's Index, and this is discussed in the next Chapter. Each State Government should examine the list of centres from which it is obtaining data at present and prepare a new list for their own use. Similarly, each District Collector should prepare a new list for use in his district.

The list of commodities for which data are obtained in each State should also be examined and arrangements should be made for the collection of prices of all important commodities, keeping in view their local importance also, e.g., turpentine, rosin, myrobalans, bristles.

4. 21. Inclusive lists of centres at different levels.—When we suggest that the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should obtain 570 quotations for cereals and gram, we assume that the data in respect of a much larger number of centres will be compiled and kept ready by the Price Collecting Authority in each State, which can be made available whenever they are required. As long as the Central Government are assured that prices for a particular centre, which they are not

themselves receiving, are being collected by some agency in the State and that they can get the information by telegram or even on the telephone, they can restrict themselves to the smaller number of centres proposed in the previous paragraph. Similarly, the Price Collecting Authority at the State headquarters should be able to obtain more detailed information from the District Collector, provided it is being collected regularly and systematically as suggested by us.

4. 22. Publication of price data.—At present, the information on wholesale prices is published as a separate Bulletin in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. Similar information on a fortnightly basis is published in the Gazettes of many States, as already referred to in paragraph 2.26. Under either arrangement we find that due to difficulties in printing, the publication of data is delayed and there is a long time-lag between the date of publication and the date to which the data relate. It is needless to emphasize again that timeliness is essential in the reporting of prices. Steps should be taken to reduce the time-lag in the publication of the data. We recommend that a weekly Bulletin of wholesale prices should be published by every State, within seven days of the date to which the data relate. Ordinarily this should be printed, if it could be brought out within this time. In States where there are difficulties in printing, the Bulletins should be cyclostyled. In the latter case, for purpose of permanent records, we recommend that the weekly price data should be published in a separate monthly Bulletin. In States where monthly Bulletins of Statistics giving various types of statistics, are published, the weekly price data may be published in these Bulletins. If these publications are brought out regularly, there does not appear to be any need for publishing price data in the Gazettes. The State Governments may consider the desirability of discontinuing this practice, except in cases where it is a statutory obligation.

4. 23. Analysis of price data.—The replies received from the States to our Questionnaire have shown that generally the price data are published as such and are not processed or analysed properly, if at all. As already emphasized, the information on prices is important not only for assessing the current price position but also for a study of the price trends for throwing light on future outlook. Such studies should be systematically undertaken by appropriate agencies in each State. Incidentally such analysis will throw up many of the defects in the price data such as non-comparability of quotations, etc., and steps can be taken to rectify them.

4. 24. Need for Regional Index Numbers.—For a study and proper understanding of the over-all trends, it is desirable to compile and publish index numbers of wholesale prices. The Office of the Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is preparing the official All-India Index of Wholesale Prices which has been dealt with in Chapter V. In that Chapter, we have pointed out the need for basing the index for the cereals sub-group on 99 quotations instead of the 50 contemplated by that Office. While this series gives the trend in prices on an all-India level, there is need for preparing separate Regional Index Numbers of wholesale prices of cereals and other agricultural commodities based on a larger number of centres, particularly in view of the heterogeneous character of the country

and the widely varying patterns of production and consumption prevailing in each region. These regional indices might be combined ultimately into an independent All-India Index Number of Agricultural Prices. The arrangements proposed in this Chapter should facilitate the preparation of such an Index Number by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

4. 25. State-wise Index Numbers of wholesale prices.—State-wise index numbers of wholesale prices are being compiled at present in ten States. We suggest that, when the machinery is reorganized in the manner suggested and the collection of prices established on a firm and scientific basis, all the major States should consider the desirability of compiling such index numbers at least in respect of agricultural commodities in order to provide a clear indication of the trends in prices. We invite attention to the recommendation of the Second Joint Conference of Central and State Statisticians held in October, 1953 which suggested *inter alia* that the States should examine the existing method of construction adopted for these index numbers with a view to exploring the scope for further technical improvements. We also recommend that the Central Statistical Organisation should pursue this question with the State Governments further.

4. 26. Retail prices.—The present position regarding the collection of retail prices and the agency employed for the same in the different States have been described in Chapter II. Of these, the data that are most utilized are those collected for the compilation of cost of living index numbers in industrial centres. The cost of living index generally covers, besides food items, a number of other items entering consumption expenditure of working classes. Besides working classes, there are other important groups of urban population, e.g., middle classes, the study of levels of cost of living of which is also assuming importance. We recommend therefore that the scope of the price data collected might be expanded to cover commonly used articles entering the consumption of such classes also. A full discussion of the scope of these index numbers and the quality and nature of the data required to be collected for the compilation of these indices does not fall within the purview of this Committee. There is, however, a large amount of material on retail prices which is being regularly collected by other agencies for purposes of studying the prices which the consumer actually pays in relation to the wholesale rates prevailing in the market. Our views and suggestions regarding the agencies and the data collected by them are given in the following paragraphs.

4. 27. Broadly, the collection of retail prices should be organized on the same lines as those of wholesale prices. Our recommendations regarding the nature of the agency for the collection of data, supervision, improvements in the quality of data and the techniques of price collection, etc., should apply to retail prices also, subject to a few important differences as indicated below.

4. 28. Agency for reporting prices.—At centres where the data are required in connection with the compilation of cost of living index numbers prepared by the Labour Departments or the Bureaus of Economics and Statistics, the data may continue to be collected through their respective agencies. In other centres, where wholesale prices are collected, it would be advantageous if the same agency

which is collecting wholesale prices also collects retail prices provided the retail markets are near the wholesale *mandis*. If retail prices are needed in respect of district or tehsil headquarters towns which are not important from the point of view of wholesale prices and no other suitable agency exists, they may be collected through the revenue agency, subject of course to adequate arrangements being made for the supervision of their work. What is important is to ensure that the persons selected for reporting prices should be educated and intelligent and should understand the techniques of price collection.

4. 29. Avoidance of duplication.—We also recommend that the existing duplication of work relating to the collection of retail prices should be avoided. It is desirable to ensure proper co-ordination between the prices collected by different agencies. It is certainly inadvisable that two different sets of prices are collected for the same centres by two different agencies.

4. 30. Inclusive lists of centres.—Here again we suggest that the requirements of retail prices at different levels should be clearly kept in view. At the all-India level, the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics should examine whether they require retail prices from centres other than those from which they are at present getting the information. We feel that the question how far the existing urban centres for which reliable cost of living index numbers are made available either by the Labour Bureau or the States concerned are representative of the country as a whole, needs urgent consideration by the Labour Bureau. Further, if the retail prices in the rural centres are to be maintained by the Labour Bureau, the centres should be much more broad-based. The State Governments should also similarly review the position regarding the number of centres from which price data are collected at present. They may perhaps require at headquarters retail prices only in respect of a few important industrial centres or district headquarters towns. It may not be necessary for them to compile retail prices from all the tehsil headquarters. Such information may be maintained either at the tehsil offices or the district offices. It is, however, necessary that the lists of centres from which prices are obtained at the different levels, *viz.*, district, State and all-India should be clearly laid down and the authorities at the different levels should know what types of prices are being collected at the lower levels. It will be of advantage if the centres in the all-India list falling in any State are included in the State list and the district lists include all the centres covered by the State list. The primary reporters should send duplicate copies of the returns to the authorities at different levels in the case of common centres.

4. 31. Supervision, etc.—Whatever be the agency for the collection of retail prices, we emphasize that adequate arrangements should be made for the supervision of the data. It is also necessary that the connotation of retail price, specification of quality, type and nature of quotation and its frequency should all be laid down. The recommendations made by us in regard to wholesale prices would provide useful guidance in this connection.

4. 32. Farm Prices.—With regard to farm prices, the procedure for the collection of these prices suggested to the State Governments by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in 1947 (*vide* paragraph

2.41) appears to be satisfactory. We recommend that all the States which have not so far adopted the method, should adopt it immediately, not only with a view to improving the reliability and quality of the data within each State, but also to ensuring comparability as between different States. The number of crops for which the farm prices are at present obtained should be examined and every endeavour should be made to collect the farm prices at least in respect of crops for which periodical Crop Estimates are issued. Further, our general recommendations regarding the quality of data, need for supervision, etc., should apply to the collection of farm prices also.

4. 33. Parity Index Numbers.—It has already been mentioned in para. 2.43 that nine States are compiling or have agreed to compile Index Numbers of Parity between the prices received and prices paid by the farmer. In view of the importance of such indices, we recommend that all the principal States should take up the compilation of these index numbers. The Joint Conference of Central and State Statisticians has also recommended the compilation by States of such index numbers.

4. 34. Futures Prices.—The 'futures' prices give an indication of the various factors affecting the market especially the state of expectation and as such give valuable guidance to the Government, in their policies. These should be collected from important market centres by respective State Governments where forward trading takes place. The Central Government should also collect 'futures' prices in respect of important crops from selected centres such as Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. In the case of 'futures' prices, it will be necessary to compile them on a day-to-day basis and also to obtain opening and closing quotations as also the highest and lowest levels prevailing each day.

CHAPTER V

ECONOMIC ADVISER'S INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES

5. 1. **Scope of the Index.**—The Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry compiles and issues the official All-India Index Number of Wholesale Prices, which is designed to measure the trends in wholesale prices for the country as a whole. This Index comprises of five important economic groups, viz., Food Articles, Industrial Raw Materials, Semi-manufactures, Manufactures and Miscellaneous and is at present worked out as a weighted geometric mean of the price relatives of 78 commodities (arranged into 18 sub-groups) with the year ended August 1939 as the base. In all, a total of about 230 quotations are taken into account in the compilation of the weekly index which is calculated from one-day-a-week prices on or about Friday. The weights assigned to the various commodities in the Index are proportional to the values of the commodities as determined from the estimated quantities marketed and the prices prevailing during 1938-39. The index number for the cereals sub-group (of the Food Articles group) is now based on 8 quotations. The number of quotations for each cereal and the weight attached thereto are given below :—

	No. of Quotations	Weight
Rice	3	11·2
Wheat	3	3·7
Jowar	1	2·5
Bajra	1	0·9
	<hr/> 8	<hr/> 18·3

5. 2. The range of items and the centres in this series were mostly governed by the availability of data in pre-war years and the limited resources for compilation during the war period. After the partition of the country, the system of weighting which was initially established from the data of output and consumption pertaining to undivided India was also inappropriate. The base adopted for the Index was also too remote, being related to the pre-partition and pre-war period. In view of the unsatisfactory nature of this Index, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have worked out proposals for revising the Index as early as 1949. Index numbers according to these revised proposals are being maintained but the question of issuing them has been under consideration for some time.

5. 3. **Revised Series.**—The new Index is proposed to be composed of 120 commodities and 500 quotations instead of 78 commodities and 230 quotations covered by the present Index. The method of averaging will be changed from the geometric mean to the arithmetic average. The base period is also proposed to be changed to the year

ended August, 1949. The cereals sub-group according to these proposals will have the following weights and will consist of about 50 quotations distributed as follows :—

	No. of centres	Weights
Rice	18	11.29
Wheat	10	5.34
Jowar	5	0.96
Bajra	6	0.50
Barley	4	0.50
Maize	4	0.45
Ragi	3	0.20
	50	19.24

5. 4. **Adequacy of quotations.**—As the Committee has been, during its visits to the different States, selecting important market centres from which weekly wholesale price data are to be collected by the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the adequacy and representative character of the various centres now proposed to be included in the cereals sub-group of the Economic Adviser's Index has been referred to it. Since the objective of the Economic Adviser's Index Number is to measure the trends in the price levels for the country as a whole, it is necessary that the centres and quotations selected should be truly representative of the price situation as it prevails in the different parts of the country. There is a view that, theoretically, separate index numbers for individual centres are more satisfactory than a single index number for the country as a whole, especially in a controlled economy. But we feel that, even if we have individual index numbers, it would be necessary, for practical purposes, to have an all-India index, with a view to comprehending the over-all price position in the country, specially for national and international purposes. For preparing a single all-India index, the following considerations have been suggested to us which we mention with our recommendations :—

- (i) In a free trade economy, it is sufficient if a few representative centres are selected in different parts of the country. Even then, in deciding upon the number of centres, some consideration has to be given to the nature of relationship of different markets and the degree of mobility obtaining in the country. In recent years, however, there have been artificial restrictions on the free movement of some of the cereals in the shape of inter-State or intra-State bans. Certain areas are still cordoned off, the movement to and from which is banned with the result that the price within each such cordoned zone is largely insulated from that obtaining elsewhere.
- (ii) Besides, there have been frequent changes in the nature of controls and also in the sizes and boundaries of the cordoned areas. The situation during the last two years is particularly significant in this context in view of the major change in regard to policy of controls on cereals. Prior to 1952, cereals were rigidly controlled as regards movement, sale, distribution and prices. With the relaxation in controls from June 1952 onwards, this position does not obtain now uniformly in respect of all the cereals and

in all the States. Relaxations have been announced from time to time, although free-trade has not yet been restored completely throughout the country. Thus the proportion of controlled, fair price shop and open market quotations included in the index varies from time to time. The effect of this on the index will be particularly significant if the number of centres selected is small. This difficulty could be avoided partially by increasing the number of centres.

- (iii) It has been suggested to us that one way of designing the index numbers in a controlled economy is to base them on as many strata as there are potentially cordoned zones which may be co-terminus with districts or big cities and to work out a weighted index giving suitable weight to the price relative for each stratum. We consider that there are a number of practical difficulties, *e.g.*, determination of weights for each stratum, computation of the weighted index every week on the basis of such a large number of quotations, etc., in implementing this suggestion. For all practical purposes, therefore, it should be possible to achieve the same objective with a somewhat smaller number of centres, *e.g.*, 100, by selecting the centres in such a way that the surplus and deficit areas in each important State receive a fair representation so that the effects of probable changes in the pattern of controls are as small as possible on the over-all price trends as reflected by the index.
- (iv) Although the index is intended to give only an over-all picture of the trends in the prices, it will be desirable to include at least one centre from each of the important States where the concerned cereal is marketed in appreciable quantities, so that the behaviour of prices at these centres is also taken into account in the all-India index.
- (v) In determining the number of centres, it has to be borne in mind that the index number for cereals sub-group should not be based on an unduly large number of quotations out of proportion with other groups of the index. From this stand-point, we consider that the number of quotations for cereals should be roughly between 95 and 100 in an index number of the type proposed in the revised scheme referred to in para. 5.2, wherein cereals have been given a weight of about 19 out of 100 in the over-all index to be based on 500 quotations for all the commodities.

5. 5. Allocation of centres.—The next problem that arises for consideration is the allocation of the total number of centres to the different States and the actual selection of representative centres from each State. Here, too, it is desirable to go by practical rather than purely theoretical considerations. It may be desirable to allocate the total number of centres as between different homogeneous zones on some such basis as the value or quantity of the cereals marketed in the different zones. But in most cases, reliable information regarding marketable surplus or actual quantities marketed is not available for different zones or even for different States separately. In the absence of this information and in view of the difficulty of securing it, a rough and ready method for the purpose of allocation of centres is to work on the basis of the net availability of each

cereal in the different States over a period of years say 1949-50 to 1952-53, *e.g.*, roughly one centre for about 5 lakh tons of net availability. Within each important State it will be necessary to ensure that the different surplus and deficit areas, producing and consuming areas are represented. At the same time, there does not appear to be any need for taking more than 4 or 5 quotations within each State, for the broad purpose for which the Economic Adviser's Index is prepared, as price trends within the same homogeneous region are bound to be similar.

A statement showing the number of centres recommended by us for selection in each of the different States is given in Appendix XII.

5. 6. Selection of centres.—Having determined the number of centres to be selected in each State, the next step is to select the centres. In this, we have been guided mainly by the advice given by the State Governments. During our visits to different States, we have discussed this question with their officers belonging to the Departments of Civil Supplies, Revenue, Agriculture, Marketing and Statistics. In all cases, important and representative markets were selected and a few important consuming centres such as Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi and Kanpur were also included. During the discussions with the State Governments we had kept before us the 50 centres recently proposed by the Office of the Economic Adviser. These have been replaced only where the State Governments strongly recommended such replacements. In some cases, *e.g.*, where the two existing centres such as Drug and Raipur (in Madhya Pradesh) for rice were too near, only one was retained and the other was replaced. In others, a more representative market within the district was substituted for the district headquarters' town, *e.g.*, Khagaria in place of Monghyr for wheat. After the separation of Andhra from Madras, the centres for jowar and ragi had to be necessarily changed in favour of the most important centres from the point of view of the new States.

A list of centres recommended by us for inclusion in the revised Economic Adviser's Index is given in Appendix XIII. It is hoped that the Office of the Economic Adviser would, in due course, use the appropriate agencies for price collection at each of the centres, as recommended by us.

5. 7. On an examination of the available price data, we find, however, that price quotations in respect of eleven centres (marked with asterisk in the list) are not readily available, although these have been recommended by the State Governments as the most suitable for the respective areas. For these centres, we suggest that the centres given in Appendix XIV should be used, till arrangements can be made for the regular collection of price data from the original eleven centres.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

1. A large mass of data on wholesale prices is being collected through a variety of agencies at various levels, *viz.*, the Centre, the State Governments and the district authorities; but the methods of price collection, the analysis of data and their utilization leave much to be desired (paragraph No. 2.17).

2. The primary reporters are generally subordinate officials belonging to Revenue, Civil Supplies, Marketing or Economics and Statistics Departments. Most often, price collection forms one of the multifarious minor duties of the reporter with the result that he would hardly evince any interest in and find the necessary time for this work. Often, he does not collect prices himself but leaves it to the subordinate personnel under him (paragraph No. 2.18).

3. Hardly any supervision is exercised over the work of price collection except perhaps in a few States. Although supervision by the immediate superior officers is prescribed under the rules, rarely do these officers take any interest in and have any time for such work (paragraph No. 2.19).

4. At the Centre, the collection of wholesale prices of agricultural commodities is mainly centralised in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are also collected by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the compilation of the All-India Index Number of Wholesale Prices. In most of the States, however, a variety of agencies are collecting the data each to meet its own individual requirements, independently of the others; and, often, there is no co-ordination between the different agencies (paragraph No. 2.20).

5. The coverage of the data also varies from State to State. In most of the Part A States and some of the Part B States, the wholesale price data are comprehensive and cover all the agricultural commodities important from the point of view of the State. In a few States, the coverage is inadequate and needs to be extended. Data in respect of some minor agricultural and forest products, livestock and fisheries are not collected in many States (paragraph No. 2.21).

6. The centres for which the data are reported are not always selected with care. The number of centres for which prices are reported is generally either too large or too small. Sometimes, the particular centre chosen is not an important market for the commodity concerned. The selection of centres is often not based on a proper classification of the markets into various types—primary, secondary and terminal (paragraph No. 2.21).

7. In some States where regulated markets have been established or where marketing surveys have been conducted information regarding market arrivals exists and is fairly reliable. In others, similar

data on market arrivals or even movements into and from important markets, is not available with the result that it is difficult to determine objectively the relative importance of the markets (paragraph No. 2.22).

8. The connotation of the word "wholesale price" does not seem to be clearly defined and even if fully defined, it has not been comprehended properly by the primary reporters. The variety and quality of the commodity to which the price relates are not also always specified. As such, the weekly prices are not often strictly comparable over a period of time. Sometimes they show very large and sudden variations which are more due to varietal and quality differences rather than to genuine factors of supply and demand (paragraph No. 2.23).

9. There is no uniformity in the frequency of collection nor in the time reference adopted for reporting. Within the same State, the data are collected at different intervals by different agencies (paragraph No. 2.24).

10. There is considerable time-lag in the publication of the data in many States. This delay detracts from the utility of the data (paragraph No. 2.27).

11. The data are not available continuously. Often no quotations are reported for weeks together and when reports are not received in time, no attempt is made to compile and publish the missing information in subsequent weeks (paragraph No. 2.28).

12. The data are generally published as they are received without any processing. Only in a few States, index numbers of wholesale prices are compiled; there is scope for technical improvements in these indices (paragraph No. 2.29).

13. The available data regarding retail prices are also very large, being collected by a variety of agencies such as Revenue, Civil Supplies, Economics and Statistics, Marketing and Labour Departments. (paragraph No. 2.30).

14. The collection of retail prices by the Labour and Economics and Statistics Departments for purposes of construction of cost of living or retail price indices is, comparatively speaking, better organized. The data collected through other agencies generally suffer from the same drawbacks regarding primary collection, supervision, connotation of the term, etc., as in the case of wholesale prices. (paragraph No. 2.39).

15. With regard to farm prices, two series of data are available at present; the first is the data collected through the State Governments which denotes farm prices, i.e., prices received by the farmer at the village site during the specified harvesting period; the other series is collected through the agency of the Imperial Bank and represents wholesale prices during the harvest season (paragraph Nos. 2.40 to 2.42).

Recommendations*Technical Aspects of Price Reporting*

16. The system of wholesale prices reported should cover representative prices at all stages of commercial transactions in goods, *i.e.*, in primary, secondary and terminal markets. In selecting primary markets, while the importance of the market from the point of view of transactions should be the guiding factor, the availability of continuous price data should also be a criterion (paragraph No. 3.4).

17. At each market, the quotation reported should relate to the actual price at which the transaction takes place irrespective of the terms of contract and without excluding the different incidentals such as charges for weighment, wholesaler's commission, etc. (paragraph No. 3.5).

18. The variety and quality of the commodity to which the prices should relate, should be specified for each Market. If only a single variety is commonly transacted and its arrivals are continuous throughout the year, this variety should be selected for that centre. If this is not possible, two or three additional varieties which are most common and which are sufficiently close to the original variety should be fixed up in advance, and one of them should be quoted if the original variety ceases to arrive in the market. The prices should be reported for the fair average quality (paragraph No. 3.8).

19. Whenever there is a change in variety, the price of the new variety during the previous one or two weeks should also be given to enable comparisons. This will also facilitate splicing if index numbers are to be compiled from the data (paragraph No. 3.8).

20. When both the old and new crops are marketed simultaneously, the prices of both should be quoted, for about four to six weeks (paragraph No. 3.9).

21. For each market, the quotations should relate to the modal price, *i.e.*, the price at which most of the transactions take place, during the peak period of marketing (paragraph No. 3.11).

22. The wholesale prices should be collected as on Friday every week, where markets are held every day. Where markets are held on specified days of the week, the prices reported should relate to the nearest market day, preceding Friday (paragraph Nos. 3.13 and 3.14).

23. The prices collected should relate to actual transactions, nominal quotations being avoided as far as possible (paragraph No. 3.15).

24. During the period when statutory rationing is in force, the wholesale issue rates to ration shops should be quoted. Where fair price shop prices and open market quotations are simultaneously available due to partial control, both should be quoted. A rough estimate of the relative proportion of the respective transactions at fair price shops and in the open market might be formed and submitted once in two months or so (paragraph No. 3.16).

25. The primary reporter should collect the prices in terms of local measures and should convert them into standard measures. The prices reported and published should relate to all-India standard measures, e.g., maund of 82 $\frac{2}{7}$ lbs. for grain, bale of 392 lbs. for cotton (paragraph No. 3.18).

26. The proforma and instructions prescribed in Appendices IX and X should be adopted for primary collection of data (paragraph No. 3.21).

Machinery for Collection of Wholesale Prices

27. Any agency which is associated with the market in the normal course of its duties and is intimately acquainted with the market conditions is the most suitable agency for purposes of price reporting at the primary level. It is an added advantage if the agency is located at or near the markets (paragraph No. 4.2).

28. In States where the Agricultural Produce Markets Act has been enacted and regulated markets have been established under the Act, the staff of the market committees is the best agency for reporting prices (paragraph No. 4.3).

29. The States which have not passed Agricultural Produce Markets Act should undertake the necessary legislation expeditiously and establish regulated markets at the more important marketing centres as early as possible. Then alone can a permanent and reliable agency be created for the recording and reporting of wholesale prices (paragraph No. 4.3). The other advantages of the regulated markets are given in paragraph 4.4.

30. In applying the Agricultural Produce Markets Act, the State Governments should give priority to the centres selected for reporting of prices to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture given in Appendix XI. In States where the coverage of the commodities in the regulated market is limited, the Act should be extended to all commodities which are commonly sold in the market (paragraph No. 4.3).

31. The States which have not yet enacted the Agricultural Produce Markets Act are advised to study the Hyderabad legislation and to follow the same with such modifications as may be necessary in the light of local conditions. The other States which are at present following a different system might also examine the working of the Hyderabad model with a view to see what suitable improvements can be made in the existing arrangements (paragraph No. 4.5).

32. Till such regulated markets are brought into existence, other marketing agencies which already exist could, as an interim measure, be entrusted with the work of price collection provided they have adequate field staff in the districts, sub-divisions or tehsils (paragraph No. 4.6).

33. Next in importance, comes the Economic Intelligence staff belonging to the Departments of Economics and Statistics. This can be entrusted with price reporting, as an interim measure, at places where regulated markets or other suitable marketing staff does not exist (paragraph No. 4.7).

34. The revenue agency may continue to be entrusted with price collection work, as an interim measure, at such centres where regulated markets or other marketing or economic intelligence staff does not exist, subject however to certain improvements designed to enhance the reliability of the prices reported by it. The first is the provision of adequate and effective supervision over its work. The second is that the responsibility for price collection should be definitely fixed on a single specified person. Thirdly, the primary reporter should be trained properly in the procedures for the collection of prices (paragraph No. 4.8).

35. As and when the regulated markets are established, the staff of the market committees should take over the work of primary collection of price data from the interim agencies. Then, even for the requirements of revenue administration, the District Collectors should utilise the data collected through marketing agencies rather than collect their own price data independently (paragraph Nos. 4.8 and 4.9).

36. The staff of the Civil Supplies Department is not suitable as a permanent agency because it is mostly a temporary organisation and is not likely to continue after the relaxation of controls (paragraph No. 4.10).

37. For purposes of comparison, each State may attempt to collect prices for a few selected centres through non-official agencies also, e.g., Imperial Bank of India, Chambers of Commerce, etc. (paragraph No. 4.11).

38. In the regulated markets where the price data are reported by the marketing staff, inspection should be done by the officers of the Marketing Department (paragraph No. 4.12).

39. Where the Revenue or other agency reports the price data, whole-time Prices Current Inspectors should be appointed, as an interim measure. The number of Inspectors that will be needed has been suggested for each State (paragraph No. 4.12).

40. As regards permanent arrangements for supervision of price data, in each district, there should be a District Statistical Officer who should be entrusted with the task of supervision of all statistics including agricultural statistics and agricultural prices. This Officer should belong to the cadre of Statisticians and have the proper technical qualifications and the necessary training in statistics. He should be located at the headquarters of the district under the general supervision of the District Collector subject to technical guidance and co-ordination of a Statistical Organisation at the State level (paragraph Nos. 4.13 and 4.15).

41. The District Statistical Officer should not normally be required to do any routine collection of statistics. His main function should be to supervise the work of the various primary collecting agencies and give them necessary technical guidance and training and also to co-ordinate their work (paragraph No. 4.15).

42. Before the primary reporters begin reporting of prices, they should be adequately trained in the procedures of collection (paragraph No. 4.16).

43. The duplication in the matter of price collection at present in existence should be avoided as far as practicable. At the State level, only one agency should be designated as the Price Collecting Authority (paragraph No. 4.17).

44. The requirements of price data at the different levels, viz., the district, the State headquarters and the Government of India should be carefully assessed. Four lists of market centres should be prepared for reporting prices to the district officer, State Government, Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Office of the Economic Adviser, in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The first list should be inclusive of the second, and so on. The nature of the markets, e.g., primary, secondary or terminal should be specified in each case. The authorities at each level should know exactly the names and types of centres selected at the other levels so that whenever the need for such data arises, they can get the information by telegram or otherwise from the appropriate authorities. In respect of common centres, the primary reporter should prepare the requisite number of copies and post them simultaneously (paragraph Nos. 4.18 and 4.21).

45. In order to enable an assessment of the relative importance of different markets, data on arrivals of the various agricultural commodities into each market should be collected and maintained. In the absence of this information, statistics of movement by rail of these commodities to and from the railway station or stations near the market should be collected through the railway authorities (paragraph No. 4.19).

46. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture are receiving price data from a large number of centres in respect of cereals and gram and a small number in respect of other crops. There is scope for reduction in the number of quotations for cereals. The list of centres for which the Ministry should obtain prices, is given in Appendix XI (paragraph No. 4.20).

47. With regard to agricultural commodities other than cereals and gram, the existing number of quotations is inadequate and should be enlarged. An illustrative list of centres for which the Ministry should obtain prices is given in Appendix XI (paragraph No. 4.20).

Processing and Publication

48. The time-lag in the publication of the data should be reduced by the State Governments. A weekly Bulletin of Prices should be published by every State, within seven days of the date to which the data relate. Ordinarily this should be printed, if it could be brought out in time. Where this is not possible, the Price Bulletins should be cyclostyled. In the latter case, we recommend that the weekly price data should be published in a separate monthly Bulletin, to serve as a permanent record (paragraph No. 4.22).

49. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture might consider the question of preparing Regional Index Numbers of wholesale prices of cereals and other agricultural commodities based on a larger number of centres than those covered by the Economic Adviser's Index. These Regional Indices might be ultimately combined into an all-India Index Number of Agricultural Prices (paragraph No. 4.24).

50. All the major States should consider the desirability of compiling index numbers of wholesale prices in order to give a clear indication of the trends in prices (paragraph No. 4.24).

Collection of Retail and Other Prices

51. The collection of retail prices should be organized on the same lines as those suggested for wholesale prices. Adequate arrangements for supervision and improvements in the quality of data and the techniques of price collection should be made (paragraph No. 4.27).

52. Where the data are required for the cost of living and retail price index numbers and are compiled by the Departments of Labour or Economics and Statistics, the data should continue to be collected through the existing agencies. The scope of the price data collected might be expanded to cover commonly used articles entering the consumption of other important urban classes, e.g., middle classes (paragraph Nos. 4.26 and 4.28).

53. In other centres, wherever it is possible, the agency which is collecting wholesale prices should also collect retail prices (paragraph No. 4.28).

54. As in the case of wholesale prices, the existing duplication of work relating to collection of retail prices should be avoided as far as possible and the lists of centres should be prepared in the manner described in paragraph 4.30 (paragraph No. 4.29).

55. The procedure suggested by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture for the compilation of farm prices appears to be satisfactory. The States which have not so far adopted this method should start collecting the data on this basis immediately (paragraph No. 4.32).

56. The States might also compile Index Numbers of Parity between the prices received and prices paid by the farmer. These State Indices might be ultimately combined into an all-India Index of Parity (paragraph No. 4.33).

57. In States where 'futures' markets are important, the respective State Governments should organize the collection of 'futures' prices also. The Central Government might also collect data on 'futures' prices in respect of important crops (paragraph No. 4.34).

58. The list of 50 centres proposed for inclusion in the cereals sub-group of the All-India Index Number of Wholesale Prices issued by the Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should be enlarged as suggested by us in paragraph 5.5.

P. N. THAPAR
Chairman

S. R. SEN

B. RAMAMURTI

J. S. SARMA.
Secretary.

NEW DELHI :
24th April, 1954.

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESOLUTION, SETTING UP THE COMMITTEE.

No. F. 7-5/53-P. C. III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(AGRICULTURE)

New Delhi, dated the 11th November, 1953.

RESOLUTION

The Government of India, having given careful consideration to the need for building up an appropriate machinery for the collection of prices of agricultural commodities, have decided to set up a Committee of Enquiry composed of the following :—

- (1) Shri P. N. Thapar, Adviser, Planning Commission (Chairman).
- (2) Dr. S. R. Sen, Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture.
- (3) Dr. B. Ramamurti, Joint Director, Central Statistical Organisation.
- (4) A representative of each State in turn during the period the enquiry is conducted in the State.
- (5) Shri J. S. Sarma, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Secretary).

2. The terms of reference of the Committee will be :—

- (i) to examine the existing machinery for the reporting of prices of agricultural commodities, including cash crops and foodgrains; and
- (ii) to suggest improvements necessary in the existing machinery.

3. The Committee shall have access to such official records as may be required for the purpose of the enquiry and is authorised to call and examine such witnesses and to undertake such tours as may be necessary for the purpose. The Committee should submit its report as early as possible and in any case within 2½ months.

ORDERED that a copy of the Resolution may be communicated to all State Governments, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Cabinet Secretariat, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Planning Commission and Central Statistical Organization.

ORDERED also that it may be published in the Gazette of India.

H. M. PATEL,
Secretary to the Government of India.

APPENDIX II

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENTS

Sl.No.	State	Name and Designation of Officer
1	2	3
1	Andhra	Shri Kanti Raj, Director of Agriculture, Andhra.
2	Assam	Shri L. K. Handique, Director of Agriculture, Assam.
3	Bihar	Shri S. R. Bose, Director, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Bihar.
4	Madhya Pradesh	Shri R. N. Gadre, Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh.
5	Bombay	Shri D. S. Ranga Rao, Statistician, Department of Agriculture, Bombay.
6	Orissa	(1) Shri M. N. Guha, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Department, Orissa. (2) Shri R. N. Dwivedi, Senior Marketing Officer, Orissa.
7	Madras	(1) Shri D. S. Rajabushanam, Director of Statistics, Madras. (2) Shri A. R. Rajaratnam, Additional Deputy Secretary to the Government of Madras Revenue Department, Madras.
8	Punjab	Shri R. L. Anand, Economic & Statistical Adviser, Punjab.
9	Uttar Pradesh	Chaudhri Shri Ram Singh, Provincial Marketing Officer, Uttar Pradesh.
10	West Bengal	Shri N. C. Ray, Joint Director of Agricultural Marketing, West Bengal.
11	Hyderabad	Shri M. V. Divatia, Director, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Hyderabad.
12	Madhya Bharat	Shri K. M. Phalke, Director of Land Records, Madhya Bharat.
13	Mysore	Shri A. Ananthapadmanabha Rao, Statistician and Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Agriculture, Mysore.
14	PEPSU	Dr. Arjan Singh, Director of Agriculture, PEPSU.
15	Rajasthan	Major J. S. Guleri, Chief Statistical Officer, Rajasthan.
16	Saurashtra	Prof. L. N. Thacker, Director of Statistics and Planning, Saurashtra.

1	2	3
17	Travancore-Cochin . . .	Dr. U. Sivaraman Nair, Professor of Statistics, University of Travancore, Travancore-Cochin.
18	Ajmer-Merwara . . .	Shri C. L. Nagar, Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Ajmer.
19	Bhopal	Shri M. S. Das, Chief Secretary, Bhopal.
20	Himachal Pradesh . . .	Dr. Pushkar Nath, Director of Agriculture, Himachal Pradesh.
21	Bilaspur	Dr. Pushkar Nath, Director of Agriculture, Himachal Pradesh.
22	Coorg	Shri I. G. Subbiah, Development Commissioner, Coorg.
23	Delhi	Shri L. K. Verma, Statistical Officer, Delhi.
24	Kutch	Miss R. Shah, Agricultural Officer, Kutch.
25	Manipur	Shri Dwijamani Dev Sharma, Adviser, Manipur.
26	Tripura	Shri B. N. Mandal, Joint Director of Agriculture, Tripura.
27	Vindhya Pradesh . . .	Shri M. N. Zutshi, Director of Food, Vindhya Pradesh.
28	Jammu & Kashmir . . .	Shri P. N. Chaku, Secretary, W. I. and P. Department, Jammu and Kashmir.

APPENDIX III

QUESTIONNAIRE 'A'—ISSUED TO STATE GOVERNMENTS

1. **Types of price data.**—What are the different types of data on agricultural prices collected by the State—

- (a) Wholesale prices, spot and future if any ;
- (b) Retail prices ;
- (c) Farm or harvest prices ; and
- (d) Other prices as for example, procurement prices, wholesale issue rates, retail ration rates, import and export prices, etc.

2. For each type of price data, wholesale, retail, etc., please list out, as in the proforma I attached, the commodities for which price data are obtained and against each commodity, furnish detailed information on the variety, unit of quotation, periodicity, reporting agency, etc.

3. **Price collection machinery and its working.**—**Primary agency**—

- (a) What is the primary agency (or agencies) for the collection and compilation of price data at the different centres ?
- (b) Is the primary agency official or non-official ? If official, indicate the departments to which they belong—Revenue, Civil Supplies, or Marketing, etc. Are they (i) whole-time or part-time and (ii) honorary or paid ? If paid, please specify the remuneration. Also indicate their educational qualifications, training and experience in price collection.
- (c) Do they collect also any data other than agricultural prices ?
- (d) From whom are the price data ascertained by the primary reporting agency ? Is it done by spot enquiry from selected dealers or from other sources like bulletins issued by dealers, etc. ? On what basis are the dealers selected ?
- (e) Are price data further checked up with the record of actual transactions and are the reasons for abnormal price variations investigated and reported ?

4. **Supervisory Staff**—

- (a) Is there any supervision exercised on the work of the primary agency and is there any specific supervisory agency ? If so, indicate the status and designation of each supervisory officer and where he is located ?
- (b) Are they whole-time or part-time ? Is any remuneration paid ?
- (c) Do they supervise any other data collection other than agricultural prices ?
- (d) How often do they inspect price collection work ? Do they themselves check up the price quotations by personal enquiries or by reference to records and by other means with a view to ensuring the accuracy ?

5. **Staff at State Headquarters**—

- (a) What are the Organisations at the State headquarters in charge of collection, compilation and publication of agricultural prices ?
- (b) Indicate the staff at State Headquarters for (i) field inspection, (ii) scrutiny and compilation and publication, and (iii) overall planning and direction, their qualifications, experience and training, if any ?
- (c) Do they collect and process any data other than agricultural prices ?
- (d) Do officers from Headquarters visit the price collection centres, watch data collection and check them up in person ?

6. Quality of Data—

- (a) On what basis are the markets, centres and other sources of price data (ex-mill, etc.) for each commodity selected? Furnish, as in proforma II attached, details about important *mandis* in the State.
- (b) Has the specification, i.e., variety, grade, quality for each commodity been defined? What steps are taken to ensure that the price data relate to the same or comparable specifications especially in cases of (i) no transactions, (ii) temporary or seasonal disappearance from the market, and (iii) total disappearance from the market.
- (c) Has the time reference been precisely defined—a fixed day of the week, a fixed hour, etc.—and what steps are taken to ensure that this is observed?
- (d) Are the prices reported by the primary agency in local units or in standard units? If they are reported in local units, at what stage is conversion into standard units, if any, done?
- (e) Where single average quotations are given for each administrative unit on the basis of the individual quotations for a number of centres, how is this average arrived at?
- (f) Are the data received continuously without break? Are any attempts made to collect missing information subsequently?
- (g) Furnish copies of the schedules for the collection and reporting of data together with details regarding definition of types of prices, basis for selection of commodities and their grades. Also furnish the detailed instructions and procedures prescribed for collection, spot checking, supervision and compilation.

7. Index Numbers.—Are any index numbers of prices constructed, e.g., wholesale, retail, parity between prices received and prices paid by the farmer, etc.? If so, give details about the object and scope of the index, method of construction, base period, grouping of commodities, averaging, weighting, etc.

8. Dissemination and Publication.—

- (a) How are price data disseminated to the public—by radio, bulletins, publications, gazettes, press, etc.? Give detailed particulars about each one of the methods employed and the extent to which they are being utilized, and their periodicity and time lag. Please furnish specimen copies of the bulletins and other publications.
- (b) Are all data disseminated to the public? Are there any other data which are collected but not published? If so, give details.

9. General.—Are the price data collected on a voluntary basis, or under any statutory powers? If voluntary, how far is the response satisfactory? What statutory powers, if any, are necessary to secure better response?

10. Give details about the expenditure incurred by the State on (a) the collection; and (b) compilation of prices, including remuneration paid to officials or non-officials working on a part-time basis.

11. State how the price data collected are actually utilised.

12. Is the existing organisation found suitable and adequate for the task outlined above? Do the State Government consider the number of centres and commodities for which prices are obtained, adequate? Are the varieties and grades for which prices are obtained representative of the area? Have the State Government reviewed the position with a view to improving the organisation and scope of the price data collected at present? If so, the results of their examination, the difficulties experienced and proposals, if any for resolving them may be indicated. A brief review of the organisation since 1939 may also be furnished.

13. Future Quotations.—*Is it necessary to collect data about future quotations in respect of principal commodities? What is the influence of future quotations on spot quotations and on markets in producing centres?

* Reply to Question No. 13 may not be furnished if the State Government feel that they have no comments to offer.

PROFORMA I—ANNEXURE TO QUESTION 2

TYPE OF PRICE DATA.*

Sl. No.	Commodity	Quality, Grade and Specification	Unit of Quotation	Periodicity of collection	Day(s) to which the prices relate	Centre	Type of Centre	District	Agency Reporting Prices	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

NOTE : Include the data collected by Government Departments as well as the District, tehsil or village officers through official or non-official agencies.

* Separate forms to be used for wholesale prices, retail prices, harvest prices, etc., as per details given in Question I.

Col. 2 Mention all agricultural commodities including fruits and vegetables, livestock, poultry, fisheries and forest products in the order of groups of commodities given in Annexure I (page 54).

Col. 3 In the case of retail prices, indicate whether the prices relate to local or imported varieties.

Col. 4 Give the unit of quotation. If the unit is a local one its conversion into standard seers, maunds, bales, etc., as the case may be, should also be given.

Col. 5 State daily, bi-weekly, weekly, fortnightly, monthly, annual or *ad hoc*.

Col. 8 The different types of centres are the producing or exporting centres, assembling markets or mandis, importing or consuming centres. If the centre is district or tehsil headquarters it should also be indicated. Also indicate whether it is rural or urban.

Col. 10 Specify the primary agency for collection of data, e.g., Marketing Inspector, Tehsildar, Secretary, Market Committee and indicate whether it is official or non-official.

PROFORMA II—ANNEXURE TO QUESTION 6 (a)

PARTICULARS OF IMPORTANT MANDIS

Sl. No.	Name of Mandi	Tehsil and District	Nearest Railway Station	Type of Mandi		Main Commodities handled	Average annual arrivals of each commodity	Remarks
				Assembling or Distributing	Producing or Consuming			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

ANNEXURE I

LIST OF COMMODITIES

1. *Cereals*—
 - Paddy.
 - Rice.
 - Jowar.
 - Bajra.
 - Maize.
 - Ragi.
 - Korra.
 - Varagu.
 - Kodon.
 - Kutki.
 - Sawai.
 - Wheat.
 - Barley.
 - Others (specify)
2. *Pulses (whole & split)*—
 - Gram.
 - Tur or Arhar.
 - Urad.
 - Mung.
 - Masur.
 - Peas.
 - Other pulses (specify).
3. *Oil Seeds and Oils*—
 - Sesamum.
 - Rapeseed.
 - Mustard seed.
 - Groundnuts in shell and kernels.
 - Linseed.
 - Castorseed.
 - Copra.
 - Mahua seed.
 - Cotton seed.
 - Sesamum oil.
 - Mustard oil.
 - Rapeseed oil.
 - Groundnut oil.
 - Linseed oil.
 - Castor oil.
 - Coconut oil.
 - Mahua oil.
 - Vanaspati.
 - Nigerseed.
 - Kardi seed.
 - Cotton seed oil.
 - Other oilseeds or vegetable oils (specify).
4. *Fibres*—
 - Cotton (kapas and lint).
 - Jute raw.
 - Sann Hemp.
 - Sisal Hemp.
4. *Fibres*—contd.
 - Kapok.
 - Bimli Jute (Mesta).
 - Aloe Fibre.
5. *Sugar and Sugar Products*—
 - Sugarcane.
 - Gur.
 - Sugar (Crystal).
 - Khandsari.
 - Molasses.
 - Shakkar.
6. *Spices*—
 - Black Pepper.
 - Chillies.
 - Ginger Dry.
 - Garlic.
 - Turmeric.
 - Cardamom.
 - Betelnuts.
 - Others (specify)
7. *Fruits and Vegetables, Root Crops, etc.*—
 - Peas.
 - Tomatoes.
 - Lady's Finger.
 - Cauliflower.
 - Onions Dry.
 - Beet Root.
 - Cabbages.
 - Brinjals.
 - Tapioca.
 - Potatoes.
 - Sweet Potatoes.
 - Other fruits and vegetables, etc. (specify).
8. *Plantation crops*—
 - Tea.
 - Coffee.
 - Rubber
9. *Miscellaneous Commodities*—
 - Tobacco.
 - Shellac.
 - Opium.
 - Myrobalans.
10. *Livestock and Livestock products*—
 - Pair of bullocks.
 - Cow.
 - Goats.
 - Buffaloes.
 - Sheep.
10. *Livestock and Livestock products*—contd
 - Milk.
 - Butter.
 - Meat.
 - Eggs.
 - Ghee.
 - Hides.
 - Skins.
 - Wool.
 - Animal Hair, Horns, etc.
11. *Cattle Feeds*—
 - Sesamum cake.
 - Mustard cake.
 - Groundnut cake.
 - Coconut oil cake.
 - Linseed cake.
 - Castor cake.
 - Cotton seed cake.
 - Green fodder.
 - Dry fodder, straw, stalks.
 - Bran.
 - Others (specify)
12. *Agricultural Implements*—
 - Plough.
 - Plough share.
 - Spade.
 - Sickle.
 - Axe.
 - Cart.
 - Others (specify).
13. *Fish*—
 - Fresh-water fish.
 - Marine fish (specify type of fish).
14. *Forest Products*—
 - Sal.
 - Teak.
 - Sisso.
 - Simal.
 - Deodar.
 - Chir.
 - Kail.
 - Fir.
 - Pitprops.
 - Firewood.
 - Pulpwood.
 - Plywood.
 - Canes.
 - Bamboos.
 - Sleepers.
 - Others (specify).

APPENDIX IV

QUESTIONNAIRE 'B'—ISSUED TO NON-OFFICIALS

1. **Types of Data.**—What are the different types of data on agricultural prices collected by your organisation :—

- (a) Wholesale prices, spot and future, if any ;
- (b) Retail prices ;
- (c) Other prices such as harvest time prices, export prices, etc.

2. For each type of price data, wholesale, retail, etc., please list out, as in proforma I attached, the commodities for which price data are obtained and against each commodity, furnish detailed information on the variety, unit of quotation, periodicity, reporting agency, etc.

3. **Price collection machinery**—

- (a) What are the sources of the price data—official or non-official ? If non-official, what is the primary agency for collection and compilation of price data at each centre ?
- (b) From whom are the price data ascertained by the primary reporting agency ? Is it done by spot enquiry from selected dealers or from other sources like bulletins issued by dealers etc. ? On what basis are the dealers selected ?
- (c) Are price data further checked up with the records of actual transactions and are the reasons for abnormal price variations investigated and reported ?
- (d) Is there any supervision exercised on the work of the primary reporting agency and is there any specific supervisory agency ?
- (e) Give details as to how supervision is exercised, *e.g.*, by personal enquiries or by reference to records and by other means with a view to ensuring the accuracy.

4. **Quality of Data**—

- (a) On what basis are the market Centres and other sources of price data (ex-mill, etc.) for each commodity selected ?
- (b) Has the specification, *i.e.*, variety, grade and quality for each commodity been defined ? What steps are taken to ensure that the price data relate to the same or comparable specification, especially in cases of (i) no transaction, (ii) temporary or seasonal disappearance from the market, and (iii) total disappearance from the market.
- (c) Has the time reference been precisely defined—a fixed day of the week, a fixed hour, etc., and what steps are taken to ensure that this is observed ?
- (d) Where single average quotations are given for each administrative unit on the basis of individual quotations for a number of centres, how is this average arrived at ?
- (e) Are the data received continuously without break ? Are any attempts made to collect missing information subsequently ?
- (f) Furnish copies of schedules for the collection and reporting of data together with details regarding definition of types of prices, basis for selection of commodities and their grades. Also furnish the detailed instructions and procedures prescribed for collection, spot checking, supervision and compilation.

5. Index Numbers.—Are any index numbers of prices compiled? If so, give details about the object and scope of the index, method of construction, base period, grouping of commodities, averaging and weighting, etc.

6. Dissemination and Publication.—How are price data disseminated to the public, by bulletins, publications, etc.? Give detailed particulars about each one of the methods employed and the extent to which they are being utilized and their periodicity and time lag. Please furnish specimen copies of the bulletins and other publications.

7. Future Quotations—

- (a) Is data about future quotations of principal agricultural commodities, in which future trading is done, collected? If so, give details. If not, is it necessary to collect such data?
- (b) What is the influence of future quotations on spot quotations and on markets in producing centres?

8. General—

- (a) How are the price data collected actually utilised?
- (b) Have you any comments to offer on the existing machinery for collection of official price statistics?
- (c) In your opinion what are the directions in which the non-official agencies can usefully supplement the existing official agencies?

PROFORMA I—ANNEXURE TO QUESTION 2

TYPE OF PRICE DATA*

Sl.No.	Commodity	Quality, Grade and Specification	Unit of quotation	Periodicity of collection	Day(s) to which the prices relate	Centre	Type of Centres	State/District	Agency reporting prices	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

* Separate forms to be used for wholesale prices, retail prices, harvest prices, etc., as per details given in Question I.

Column 2.—Mention all agricultural commodities including fruits and vegetables, livestock, poultry, fisheries and forest products in the order of groups of commodities given in Annexure I (page 54).

Column 3.—In the case of retail prices indicate whether the prices relate to local or imported varieties.

Column 4.—Give the unit of quotation. If the unit is a local one its conversion into standard seers, maunds, bales etc. as the case may be, should also be given.

Column 5.—State daily, bi-weekly, weekly, fortnightly or monthly, annual or *ad hoc*.

Column 8.—The different types of centres are the producing or exporting centres, assembling markets or *mandis*, importing or consuming centres. If the centre is a district or tehsil headquarters it should also be indicated. Also indicate whether it is rural or urban.

Column 10.—Specify the primary agency for collection of data.

APPENDIX V

LIST OF NON-OFFICIAL ORGANISATIONS FROM WHICH REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE 'B' HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

1. Federation of Gujerat Mills and Industries, Baroda.
2. The Cochin Chamber of Commerce, Fort, Cochin.
3. The Travancore Chamber of Commerce, Alleppey.
4. The Madras Chamber of Commerce, Madras.
5. Imperial Bank of India.
6. The Indian Chamber of Commerce, Mattencheri (Cochin).
7. The Bombay Oilseeds Exchange, Ltd., Bombay.
8. The Grain and Oilseeds Merchant's Association, Bombay.
9. Indian Produce Association, Calcutta.
10. The Madras Oil and Seeds Association, Madras.
11. The Oil Merchant's Chamber, Ltd., Bombay.
12. Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.
13. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Calcutta.

APPENDIX VI

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EACH STATE

We have given our general suggestions for the improvement of the machinery for the reporting of prices in Chapter IV. Our recommendations in respect of each State are given in this Appendix. These relate to the agency for primary collection, arrangements for supervision and the need for co-ordination. The recommendations made by us in Chapters III and IV on the technical aspects of price collection, *e.g.*, specification of variety, time of reference, frequency, collection of data through non-official agencies, preparation of self-inclusive lists of centres, which are of a general character, apply to all States and are not repeated in this Appendix.

1. Assam

1. 1. In Assam, fortnightly wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities as on the last day of the fortnight are collected from one important market from each district by the Director of Agriculture. The data are collected through the local Land Records staff of the Revenue Department under Rule 145 of the Assam Executive Manual and are published in the State Gazette. The Department of Economics and Statistics collects through the agency of specially appointed price collectors fortnightly wholesale prices of different crops, seeds and draught cattle mainly for the construction of index numbers of parity between prices received and prices paid by the farmer. The Supply Department also collects fortnightly prices of decontrolled foodstuffs and weekly prices of rice/paddy through the sub-divisional officers, Deputy Commissioners and the field staff of the Procurement Department. An examination of the price data collected by the various departments shows that the centres from which price data are obtained at present are not adequate, especially in consideration of the difficulties of communication, wide variation in terrain, etc., in the State.

1. 2. There are no regulated markets in the State and there is no legislation regarding the marketing of agricultural produce. Even the Marketing Section which was in existence prior to 1947-48 has been disbanded since then.

1. 3. Our recommendations in respect of Assam are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should take immediate steps to enact legislation for the regulation of markets in the State on the model of the Hyderabad system. This would be the most economical and practical way of setting up a reliable agency for reporting prices.
- (ii) Till then, the existing arrangements for the reporting of prices through revenue or civil supplies agencies should be continued. In order to make the price reporting accurate or reliable, provision should be made for intensive supervision of the work of the primary agency. As an interim measure, three whole-time Prices Current Inspectors should be appointed for the whole State. These Inspectors should pay periodical visits to all the centres in their jurisdiction and verify personally the data reported by the primary agencies.
- (iii) As a measure of permanent improvement in the system of reporting all types of statistics including agricultural prices, one Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district, who should be responsible for the supervision of all statistical data collected in the district. These Officers should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre.
- (iv) The State Government should review the position regarding collection of price data at the State as well as district levels with a view to enlarging their scope so as to cover all the representative market centres and important agricultural commodities.
- (v) Each market should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

2. Bihar

2. 1. In Bihar, the collection of data on wholesale prices of different agricultural commodities has been mostly centralised in the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics except for some data collected by the Senior Marketing Officer. Till three years back, the bulk of the work of price collection was handled by the Supply and Price Control Department. The Government transferred this work to the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics in 1951. The price data collected in the State are discussed briefly in the following paragraphs.

2. 2. **Data collected by the State Bureau of Economics and Statistics.**— Weekly wholesale prices of different agricultural commodities, as on Saturdays, are collected by the Bureau through the sub-divisional officers and District Supply Officers, from all sub-divisional headquarters and some important producing centres in the State. The prices are, actually collected by Supply Inspectors and are published in the official Gazette and also in special publications. The Bureau is also compiling a series of wholesale price index numbers at one centre. This is an unweighted index based on four commodities, viz., rice, wheat, gram and arhar dal and relates to the prices ruling at Gaya.

2. 3. **Data collected through the marketing staff.**—The Senior Marketing Officer also collects weekly data on wholesale prices from Patna through the Marketing Survey Assistants of the Agricultural Marketing Department. Prices prevailing at Patna are disseminated to the public every evening through the Radio.

2. 4. An examination of the price data collected by the various organisations reveals that data in respect of a number of important cash crops such as jute, tobacco, seed-lac, etc., are not collected.

2. 5. A bill for introducing the system of regulated markets is under consideration in the State Legislative Assembly. The details of the system have not yet been finalised.

2. 6. Our recommendations in respect of Bihar are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should expedite the legislation for the regulation of marketing and regulated markets should be established early at important market centres. This would be the most effective and practical way of setting up a reliable price reporting agency.
- (ii) The State Government might study the working of the Hyderabad model of the regulated markets and consider which of the aspects could be adopted in Bihar in the light of local conditions.
- (iii) Till the regulated markets are established, the existing arrangements for the reporting of prices may continue. In the interests of accuracy and reliability of data, provision should be made for intensive supervision. The District Supervisors, belonging to the Revenue Department at present in-charge of crop surveys are expected to be transferred to the Bureau of Statistics with effect from the current financial year. These District Supervisors should be used, as an interim measure, for intensive supervision of the agricultural prices data collected by the primary reporting agency.
- (iv) As regards the permanent arrangements for supervision, there should be a District Statistical Officer in each district to supervise the collection of all statistics including agricultural statistics and prices. These Officers should have the necessary statistical qualifications and training and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre.
- (v) The State Government should organize the collection of wholesale prices of jute, tobacco, seed-lac and other important agricultural, livestock and forest products.
- (vi) Each market selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

3. Bombay

3. 1. In Bombay, data on statistics of wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are collected through a variety of agencies by a number of organisations, *viz.*, the Statistician to the Agriculture Department, the Marketing Research Officer, Civil Supplies Department and the Chief Conservator of Forests. The primary agency for collection and the scope and coverage of the data differ in each case, depending upon the purpose for which the data are collected. The data collected by each organisation are discussed in the following paragraphs :—

3. 2. **Data collected through the Statistician to the Department of Agriculture.**—The Statistician to the Department of Agriculture collects fortnightly wholesale prices of about 78 commodities from nine selected market centres and monthly wholesale prices from all the talukas and petas in Bombay as reported in Taluka form No. XVIII-A. While the former are collected through the Office of the Collector or Huzur Deputy Collector or Huzur mamlatdar or mamlatdar located at the reporting centre, the monthly wholesale prices are reported by the mamlatdars in charge of the taluka or peta. There is no specific agency supervising the work of price collection, but the immediate supervisory officers of the primary agency are expected to do this work as part of their normal duties. Upto 1946, the supervision was done by two Price Inspectors who were required to tour all the districts for about 8 months in a year; but these have not been attending to these duties since 1947. The fortnightly wholesale prices are collected as on the last day of each fortnight, while in the case of prices reported in Taluka Form XVIII-A, the dates of collection are the 1st and the 16th of each month and an average of the two fortnightly prices is taken to represent the monthly price. The wholesale price data collected in T. F. XVIII-A are not published but are maintained as permanent record. The fortnightly wholesale prices at the nine centres are published in the State Gazette.

3. 3. **Data collected through marketing agencies.**—There are at present 73 regulated markets in Bombay and the commodities which are regulated in each market are prescribed under the Marketing Act. The Marketing Research Officer collects weekly average wholesale prices of commodities sold in the regulated markets. These prices are obtained as averages of the daily prices, the most common price ruling in the day being taken as the price for the day. The Marketing Research Officer also collects week-end wholesale prices in the Bombay market and as far as possible, the closing rates of Saturday are collected. Daily prices of commodities having price fluctuations are broadcast from the Bombay Station of the All India Radio. A monthly bulletin giving weekly prices is also prepared for official use.

3. 4. **Data collected by Civil Supplies Department.**—Since the relaxation of controls on foodgrains from January 1953, the Statistician to the Civil Supplies Department has been collecting the weekly wholesale prices of de-controlled grains from de-rationed towns and taluka/mahal headquarters towns on the afternoon of every Saturday to study the working of the Government's revised policy of decontrol of foodgrains and to help the Government in taking the necessary administrative measures if situation arises. The data are not published.

3. 5. **Data collected by Chief Conservator of Forests.**—The Chief Conservator of Forests collects information about the prevailing market rates of timber in the Bombay market by enquiry from timber merchants bi-annually in March and October every year. The information so collected is not published but is intended exclusively for departmental use.

3. 6. Our recommendations in respect of Bombay State are as follows :—

- (i) Where regulated markets are situated at the price reporting centres, fairly reliable statistics of prices can be obtained through the staff of the market committees. The list of commodities covered by the Marketing Act in each market should be extended so as to cover all important commodities. The Marketing Act should be extended to other important centres which are not covered by it at present.
- (ii) The State Government should study the working of regulated markets in Hyderabad State and consider the feasibility of adopting some of the aspects of that system.

- (iii) In areas where there are no regulated markets, the price data may be collected, as an interim measure, through the revenue agency. Adequate arrangements should be made for ensuring supervision of price collection by appointing five whole-time Prices Current Inspectors, whose duty it should be to visit periodically all the market centres, in their jurisdiction and inspect the work of the primary reporters. The price data collected through the regulated market agency should be supervised by the District Marketing Inspectors, as an interim measure.
- (iv) In order to improve the timeliness and reliability of the different types of statistical data collected at present there should be adequate supervision of all statistical work by a whole-time Statistical Officer in each district. It is understood that the Government of Bombay have already a proposal to this effect under consideration and this proposal should be given effect to immediately.
- (v) The position regarding collection of agricultural prices through different agencies should be reviewed and the duplication of work, if any, should be avoided, to the extent that this is possible.
- (vi) Each market selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

4. Madhya Pradesh

4. 1. Data on wholesale prices are collected by three different organisations in the State, viz., the Director of Land Records, the Economics and Marketing Section of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Food. The scope and contents of these data are described below:—

4. 2. Fortnightly statistics of wholesale prices in the representative markets of Madhya Pradesh for a large number of agricultural commodities are collected by the Director of Land Records, Madhya Pradesh as per instructions contained in the Revenue Book Circular III in the Revenue Manual, Vol. II. These prices are collected through the kanungos (jamabandi clerks in Berar) and are published in the State Gazette. The prices reported represent the closing quotations on the last day of the fortnight. There are two Prices Current Inspectors under the Director of Land Records, who visit each centre periodically and check the record of prices by making personal enquiries from traders and by looking into the registers of *arhatiyas* and dalals in cotton and grain, etc. The discrepancies noted are reported by them to the Director of Land Records, who gives necessary instructions to the primary reporting agency through the tehsil officers.

4. 3. The Economics and Marketing Section of the Department of Agriculture also collects weekly and fortnightly wholesale prices of 80 commodities from 36 and 42 markets respectively through the Local Agricultural Assistants. Besides, wholesale prices of different vegetables are reported by the Agricultural Assistants, Amraoti, Jabalpur, Nagpur, Chhindwara and Chanda, for weeks ending Saturday. These Agricultural Assistants have touring duties and on days on which the Assistants are not present at the market centre, the price collection is entrusted to other subordinate personnel in the office. Weekly arrivals and prices of jowar in Akola are reported by the Deputy Commissioner, Akola. There is no supervisory agency apart from the supervisory staff of the Department to which the primary agency belongs to exercise control and check up prices reported by the primary reporters. The data collected are not published but are supplied to the Government of India and other Departments of State Government. Daily wholesale prices at Nagpur market are, however, broadcast from the All India Radio, Nagpur.

4. 4. The Food Department, Madhya Pradesh, also collects weekly wholesale prices of certain essential commodities in selected markets of Madhya Pradesh for purposes of food administration. The primary agency is the Food Department's staff in the districts such as Food Procurement Inspectors and Food and Civil Supplies Inspectors. Data on wholesale prices of certain essential commodities are published weekly in the form of a Statement by the Assistant Director of Food Supplies (Statistics), which is put on sale. No specific supervision is exercised on the work of the primary agency.

4. 5. There are at present about 36 regulated markets for cotton which are functioning satisfactorily. Besides cotton, regulation of markets is also done in respect of other commodities, e.g., foodgrains, pulses, groundnut, etc., and there are about 12 such markets, although of these only two or three may be said to be working satisfactorily. In each regulated market, there is a *daroga* who is an employee of the market committee and is in day-to-day touch with the market conditions. Each committee is autonomous, collects the market fees and spends the money, by itself. The market charges are levied on the basis of quantity of arrivals, i.e., per cart, etc., without regard to the value of the commodity.

4. 6. Our recommendations in respect of Madhya Pradesh are as follows:—

- (i) Where regulated markets exist, price data should be collected through the *darogas* of the market committees. The State Government should take immediate steps to extend the system of regulated marketing to all important *mandis* in the State. Then only can the reliability of this agency be established. The State Government might study the working of the Hyderabad system of regulated markets and consider what improvements could be effected in the existing arrangements.
- (ii) Till then, as an interim measure, the revenue agency should be utilised for the reporting of prices in other centres. The system of supervision exercised by the Prices Current Inspectors over the prices reported by the Revenue Agency appears to have been working satisfactorily and should be continued. The number of Inspectors may be increased to four so that they can pay more frequent visits.
- (iii) As regards permanent arrangements for supervision, in each district, one Statistical Officer should be appointed to assist the Collector in the supervision of all statistical data collected in the district, including agricultural prices statistics. These Officers should have basic qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre.
- (iv) Each market selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

5. Madras and Andhra*

5. 1. Before the separation of Madras and Andhra the collection of statistics of wholesale prices in the State was centralised in the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras. After separation, this work has been entrusted to the Director of Statistics in Madras and the corresponding organisation in Andhra. Extensive price data are collected at present for a large number of agricultural commodities from all important producing and consuming centres on a daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis. The principal agencies for the collection of data are the Branches and Pay Offices of the Imperial Bank located at the different centres, where they exist and the staff of the Revenue Department at other centres. Daily wholesale prices are collected in respect of fourteen commodities, e.g., paddy and rice, cotton, sugar, pepper, groundnut, groundnut oil, jaggery, brown sugar, salt, cotton seed, coconut, copra, tobacco and chillies from Madras and a few other centres. The weekly and fortnightly prices generally cover a larger number of commodities and centres. There is no specific supervisory agency over price collection; the supervisory officers of the Revenue and Statistics Departments are, however, expected to do this work as part of their normal duties.

*At the time of our visit to Madras, the records relating to the collection of prices were not completely separated for Andhra and Madras. A combined reply on behalf of both the Governments was received to our Questionnaire. Hence the reviews of the price position in these two States have been combined.

5. 2. Specifications regarding variety, grade, etc., have been prescribed in the case of each commodity. If the specified variety and quality of the commodity goes out of the market completely, a substitute specification strictly comparable with the original one is selected. When the prices for the substituted specification are first quoted, the corresponding prices during the preceding weeks are also shown in the return so that splicing could be done, if necessary, in compiling price relatives. The prices generally relate to the closing transactions on the price collection days. Detailed instructions regarding the procedures for the collection of prices have been laid down and the schedules have been prescribed.

5. 3. Index numbers of wholesale prices of food and non-food items in Madras City and index numbers of wholesale prices of foodgrains and commercial products for Madras State, are constructed by the Director of Statistics. These are published in the State Gazette. Price data in respect of certain important commodities are also broadcast daily by radio.

5. 4. The Agricultural Produce Markets Act is in force and extends to a very limited number of markets and commodities at present. Only 13 markets are regulated under this Act.

5. 5. Our recommendations in respect of Madras and Andhra are as follows :—

- (i) Where regulated markets exist, the price data should be collected through the staff of the market committees.
- (ii) The State Government should extend the system of regulated marketing to important markets in the State. This is the most efficient way of setting up a permanent and reliable agency for the reporting of prices.
- (iii) The State Governments may also study the working of the Hyderabad system of regulated markets and consider what improvements could be effected in the existing arrangements.
- (iv) Till the regulated markets are established, the prices should be collected through the revenue agency subject to arrangements being made for intensive supervision as proposed in sub-paragraph (v) below.
- (v) The data collected through the Imperial Bank agencies should be utilised for verifying the accuracy of the official price series as suggested by us in paragraph 4.11 of the main Report. Until the arrangements for the collection of prices through official agencies, as recommended by us, are finalised, the official price data may continue to be based on the reports received from the Imperial Bank agency.
- (vi) In order to ensure the accuracy of the price data collected through the revenue and other agencies, provision should be made for intensive supervision of the work of the primary agency. For this purpose, three whole-time Prices Current Inspectors should be appointed in each of Madras and Andhra States. These Inspectors should pay periodical visits to all the centres in their jurisdiction and verify personally the data reported by the primary agencies.
- (vii) As a measure of permanent improvement in the system of reporting not only agricultural prices but also the various types of statistical data in the different spheres, one Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district. This Officer should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre.
- (viii) Each Market centre selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity should be carefully laid down on the lines indicated in Chapter III of the Report. These should be communicated to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture within a period of three months.

6. Orissa

6. 1. In Orissa, data on wholesale prices are collected by the Revenue and Civil Supplies Departments in respect of 72 commodities from 49 and 59 centres respectively. The Marketing Department also collects price data from 3 centres, viz., Cuttack, Berhampur and Jeypore. In all 73 centres are covered, 35

centres being common to both the Revenue and Civil Supplies Departments. There is overlapping in respect of the commodities covered also. The Revenue Department collects price data from district and sub-divisional headquarters under the rules prescribed in the Manual of Land Records. The Civil Supplies Department collects prices from most of the sub-divisional headquarters and other important market centres. The data are collected on a fortnightly basis by the Revenue Department and on a weekly basis by the Marketing Organisation and the Civil Supplies staff. The price data collected by these departments are described in the following paragraphs.

6. 2. **Data collected through Revenue Agency.**—The data collected through the subordinate revenue staff, viz., the chakla kanungos are compiled at the State Headquarters by the Director of Agriculture. The data are published in the State Gazette, once in a fortnight.

6. 3. **Data collected through Marketing Organisation.**—Weekly wholesale prices of 98 commodities are collected in respect of three centres through the Marketing Inspectors and are compiled in the Office of the Senior Marketing Officer. The data are mainly intended for the compilation of market survey reports. Some of these prices are disseminated through the Radio and the Press.

6. 4. **Data collected through the Civil Supplies Department.**—The Civil Supplies Department collects weekly wholesale prices through the Inspectors of Supplies. These data are compiled in the State Bureau of Statistics and are published in the weekly Bulletin of Prices, issued by the Bureau.

6. 5. The system of regulated markets is not in vogue. There are about 1,100 village *hats* in the whole State which are held every week and to which the farmers bring their produce.

6. 6. Our recommendations in respect of Orissa are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should take immediate steps to enact legislation for the introduction of regulated marketing in the State. It might study the working of Hyderabad system of regulated markets and consider to what extent the main features of the Hyderabad system could be adopted in this State.
- (ii) Till then, as an interim measure, the existing arrangements for reporting of prices may continue. The present duplication of work at some reporting centres at which two or more agencies are collecting prices data and reporting the same to different agencies at the State Headquarters, should be avoided. For each centre, there should be only one agency.
- (iii) In order to make the price reporting accurate and reliable during this interim period, provision should be made for intensive supervision of the work of the reporting agency. Four whole-time Prices Current Inspectors should be appointed for the whole State. These Inspectors should pay periodical visits to all the centres in their jurisdiction and verify personally the data reported by the primary agencies.
- (iv) As a measure of permanent improvement in the system of reporting of not only agricultural prices but also the various types of statistical data in the different spheres, the District Collector should be given the assistance of District Statistical Officers, who should primarily be responsible for the supervision of all the statistical data collected in the district. This Officer should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre.
- (v) Each market selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months, under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

7. Punjab

7. 1. In Punjab, wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are collected mainly by the Economic and Statistical Adviser. The Director of Land Records and the Civil Supplies Department are also collecting prices, but recently a decision has been taken to centralise the collection of all price data in the Office of the Economic and Statistical Adviser.

7. 2. Data collected by the Economic and Statistical Adviser.—The Economic and Statistical Adviser collects weekly wholesale prices of 73 agricultural commodities from 24 markets, the number of markets selected for different commodities ranging from one to twenty depending upon the importance of the commodities. Due representation is also given to the primary, secondary and terminal markets. The primary agency for the collection of prices of articles coming within the orbit of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act are the market committees situated at the various centres. For other commodities, the information is supplied either by the staff of the Civil Supplies Department or by the tehsildars. The price data collected are those prevailing on Wednesday and relate to the grain without bag and for delivery on spot and are also exclusive of market charges. The varieties, grades or qualities of the commodities having large diversity have been specified. There are no specific arrangements for supervision over the work of price collection. The data are published in the "Weekly Bulletin of Wholesale Prices in the Punjab". Unweighted index numbers of wholesale prices in respect of 49 commodities are also compiled and published in the Weekly Bulletin.

7. 3. Data collected by the Director of Land Records.—The Director of Land Records collects fortnightly prices of 37 commodities in respect of 10 selected markets as on the last day of each fortnight and publishes them in the Punjab Gazette. This information is generally obtained through the Deputy Commissioners and the Department of Civil Supplies. It has been decided to transfer this work from the Director of Land Records to the Economic and Statistical Adviser.

7. 4. Data collected by the Civil Supplies Department.—In the Statistical Section of the Civil Supplies Department, a record is maintained of the daily prices of the more important commodities as reported by the market committees and the Foodgrains Supervisors of the Department.

7. 5. There are at present 68 regulated markets in the State established under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act. These are semi-official bodies consisting of 9 or 16 members as the Government may determine. There is a full-time paid Secretary under each committee with Inspectors and office staff.

7. 6. Our recommendations in respect of Punjab are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government might study the working of regulated markets in Hyderabad and consider what improvements could be made in the system existing in Punjab in the light of such a study.
- (ii) The price data may continue to be collected through the secretaries of the market committees where they exist and through revenue agencies at other centres.
- (iii) The need for extending the scope of the Agricultural Produce Markets Act to more centres should be examined.
- (iv) Arrangements for supervision of the price data collected should be intensified. As a measure of permanent improvement in the system of reporting not only agricultural prices but also the various types of statistical data in the different spheres, one Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district who should primarily be responsible for the supervision of all the statistical data collected in the district. This officer should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre.
- (v) Each market selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

8. Uttar Pradesh

8. 1. In U.P. data on wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities are collected by the Provincial Marketing Officer and the Department of Economics and Statistics. Formerly, wholesale prices were also collected by officers of the Revenue Department. This has however been discontinued since 1951 after the initiation of price collection by the Economics and Statistics Department.

8. 2. **Data collected by the Provincial Marketing Officer.**—The Provincial Marketing Officer who belongs to the Food and Civil Supplies Department collects daily, weekly and fortnightly wholesale prices of foodgrains, pulses, oils, oilseeds, gur and sugar in respect of important assembling and consuming centres. Daily prices are collected in respect of 24 commodities from 60 centres. Weekly prices of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds from 8 markets and of foodgrains from 15 markets are collected through telegrams. Fortnightly prices are collected in respect of 24 commodities and 59 markets. These data, with different frequencies of collection, are reported by the Marketing Inspectors belonging to the Food and Civil Supplies Department. The normal functions of the Marketing Inspectors are connected with the procurement of foodgrains and licensing of dealers. They generally operate in the markets and are as such acquainted with the market conditions. An examination of the centres for which price data are collected shows that feeder or primary markets which are larger in number and where prices are generally lower than in the assembling markets are not included in the list of centres at present selected for collection of prices. The data are not generally published. However, prices of wheat from 10 selected markets are broadcast over the Radio and are published in the press. A fortnightly review of prices collected from 35 assembling and 11 consuming markets is prepared for official use only.

8. 3. The Economics and Statistics Department is collecting wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities for purposes of construction of index numbers of wholesale prices. Generally, the centres selected are the district headquarters towns although in a few cases important markets other than the district headquarters have also been selected for price reporting. The data are collected by the Junior Economic Intelligence Inspectors of the Department. The price collection forms only a part-time work for the Inspectors whose normal function is to carry out field investigations in selected rural areas. Satisfactory arrangements exist for supervision of the price collection work by Senior Economic Intelligence Inspectors. There are 4 such Senior Inspectors in the whole State. The data collected relate to closing quotations on Friday in respect of district headquarters and opening quotations on Saturday in respect of other centres. The variety and quality of the commodity have been specified although the specification is not done properly in some cases. It had also been prescribed that the varieties and qualities specified could be changed only with the specific approval of the Director of Statistics.

8. 4. The Agricultural Produce Markets Act has not been enacted in the State and there are no regulated markets.

8. 5. Our recommendations in respect of U.P. are :—

- (i) The State Government should take immediate steps to enact legislation for the introduction of regulated markets in the State on the model of Hyderabad. This is the most satisfactory way of setting up a permanent and reliable agency for the reporting of prices.
- (ii) The existing agency for the reporting of prices, viz., the Marketing Inspectors belonging to the Food and Civil Supplies Department appears to be generally satisfactory. This, however, is a temporary agency and will have to be replaced by a more permanent agency sooner or later. Till then this agency may continue, as an interim measure.
- (iii) The agency of Economic Intelligence Inspectors will not be available for reporting prices at markets other than the district headquarters. This agency may be employed for reporting prices at centres where Marketing Inspectors do not exist. The arrangements for supervision of the work of primary reporters should be intensified.
- (iv) As a measure of permanent improvement in the system of reporting not only agricultural prices, but also of various types of statistical data in the different spheres, there should be a District Statistical Officer in each district who should primarily be responsible for the supervision of all the statistical data collected in the district. This Officer should have the proper qualifications and training in statistics and look for promotion in the statistical cadre.

- (v) The list of centres from which prices data are collected at present should be examined and due representation should be given to the primary, secondary and terminal markets.
- (vi) Each market centre selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity should be carefully laid down on the lines indicated in Chapter III of the Report. This should be communicated to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture within a period of three months.

9. West Bengal

9. 1. In West Bengal, data on wholesale prices are collected by the Marketing Section of the Directorate of Agriculture, the Directorate of Statistics in the Food Department and the State Statistical Bureau.

9. 2. **Data collected through Marketing Agency.**—The Directorate of Agriculture (Marketing) collects weekly wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities at Calcutta and in the districts through the sub-divisional Agricultural Marketing Officers. The prices are collected once a week, on fixed days, differing from market to market depending upon the convenience of the primary reporters and the days of marketing at the centre, *e.g.*, *hat* days in the case of mofussil centres. The quotations generally relate to the peak time of transactions. The price data are published in monthly Bulletins for Calcutta and the Districts. These are also published in the Calcutta Gazette. Wholesale prices of certain commodities at Calcutta are also broadcast from the Calcutta Station of the All India Radio every Monday. Prices prevailing in the consuming markets are sent to the producing markets by telegrams or express letters for dissemination in the local *hats* and markets for a number of commodities.

9. 3. **Data collected by Food Department.**—The Statistical Directorate of the Food Department, West Bengal collects weekly wholesale prices of rice, paddy and other essential commodities through the Inspectorate staff of the Department. The Food Department brings out the following three weekly price Bulletins for official use only :—

- (i) Weekly average wholesale prices of essential commodities in Calcutta markets ;
- (ii) Wholesale prices of rice in the districts and sub-divisions of West Bengal ; and
- (iii) Wholesale prices of certain commodities in selected markets of West Bengal.

A fortnightly statement showing the current wholesale prices of selected commodities received from the Food Department is published in the State Gazette, by the Director of Agriculture.

9. 4. **Data Collected by State Statistical Bureau.**—The Bureau does not collect any price data for publication, but compiles prices collected by other departments and publishes them in its "Statistical Digest" every month. The Bureau also compiles an index number of wholesale prices from the records of prices published by the Department of Food and Agriculture, West Bengal and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. This is known as the Calcutta Wholesale Price Index and is also published in the Indian Trade Journal.

9. 5. The system of regulated markets is not in vogue in West Bengal.

9. 6. Our recommendations in respect of West Bengal are as follows :—

- (i) A permanent and satisfactory agency for the reporting of agricultural prices can be developed only with the establishment of regulated markets in the State. The Government of West Bengal should take early steps to enact the necessary legislation. The Government should consider the feasibility of adopting the important features of the Hyderabad system, in drawing up their new legislation.
- (ii) Till such a permanent agency is created, the data may continue to be obtained through the sub-divisional agricultural marketing officers of the Directorate of Agriculture, as an interim measure.

- (iii) In order to improve the reliability of the different types of statistical data collected at present, there should be adequate supervision of the data by a whole-time Statistical Officer appointed in each district. These Officers should possess the requisite qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre. In West Bengal, where there is a fairly well-developed Statistical Organisation, there are already such officers in each district. The State Government may consider the desirability of utilising the services of these officers for this purpose.
- (iv) Each market selected for reporting of prices should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

10. Hyderabad

10. 1. In Hyderabad, statistics of wholesale prices are collected by the Department of Statistics and the Chief Marketing Officer. The nature of the data collected by each is described below.

10. 2. **Data collected by the Department of Statistics.**—Fortnightly average wholesale prices of 23 commodities are collected from each of the tehsil headquarters by the police patel, who is expected to work out the average prices on the basis of daily quotations. These fortnightly prices from each tehsil are sent to the district headquarters where a single average price for the district as a whole is worked out from the tehsil prices. There is no specific supervisory agency over the price collection. Further, the specifications regarding variety and quality are not prescribed. The data are not also published. Besides, monthly average wholesale prices in the city of Hyderabad are collected through the market reporter of the Statistics Department for the computation of index numbers of wholesale prices. Weekly wholesale prices prevailing in Hyderabad, as on the last day of the week, are also collected in respect of 5 commodities, viz., rice, jowar, bajra, cotton seed and groundnuts through the market reporter. These prices are furnished to the Government of India. The daily wholesale rates of cotton and kapas in 17 principal cotton markets in the State are collected by the Department of Statistics through the superintendents of cotton markets. These prices are also not published.

10. 3. **Data collected by the Chief Marketing Officer.**—The Chief Marketing Officer, Hyderabad collects weekly wholesale prices of all important commodities transacted in the 73 regulated markets, in the prescribed proformas, through the staff of the market committees. These data are not published.

10. 4. There are at present 73 regulated markets in Hyderabad established under the Agricultural Markets Act. The Agricultural Markets Act was enacted in 1930 in pursuance of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture for the regulation of agricultural markets by suitable legislation. The Act provides for the formation of market committees and the administration of the local markets. It empowers Government to make rules for proper management and regulation of such markets and confers on the committees the powers to frame bye-laws subject to the provisions of the Act. The Act applies to 54 commodities at present. The scope of the Act has been extended in 1950 to cover livestock also.

10. 5. The Market Committees established under the Markets Act consist of 12 members, comprising of 4 representatives elected by local licensed traders, 6 representatives of agricultural interests, nominated by the Collector of the district, one elected by the Municipality or the Local Fund Board and the remaining nominated by the Government, usually the Collector, Deputy Collector or the tehsildar of the area. The Government nominee is usually the Chairman of the Committee. Of late, however, the market committees have begun to elect their Chairman from among the non-official members of the Committee. The Committee frames its own bye-laws defining local market practices and fixing the market charges payable by the various market functionaries. The Committee is also empowered to issue and cancel the licences of market functionaries and to call for periodical returns relating to arrivals, prices, stocks or any other accounts of traders. Each Market Committee has its own staff consisting of Market Superintendent, clerical staff, Kamgars, etc. The main duty of this staff is to collect and record trade statistics and maintain the accounts of the Committee.

10. 6. The market charges are fixed. A market fee of annas four per cent. *ad valorem* is levied by the Market Committee. The levy on an *ad valorem* basis has the advantage that it takes into account the nature of the commodity and the fluctuations in prices. Forty per cent. of the revenues collected from the market fees and registration and licence fees is pooled for the different markets. The expenditure on the non-Government establishment at State Headquarters, at four Assistant Chief Marketing Officers' Circles, and on the pay and allowances of Superintendents of the market committees is met from this pool. Expenditure on market amenities such as ryot's sheds, water troughs, levelling of cart-parking places, light posts, etc., and on the establishment of the market offices excluding the pay and allowances of the Market Superintendents is met out of the 50 per cent. of the concerned market income and the remaining 10 per cent. is kept as Reserve Fund.

10. 7. Our recommendations in respect of Hyderabad State are as follows:—

- (i) As the system of regulated markets has developed adequately in Hyderabad, the agency of the Market Superintendents will be most suitable for reporting prices in the State.
- (ii) If there are centres which are important from the point of view of collection of prices, at which regulated markets are not established, the State Government should extend the scope of the Agricultural Markets Act to such centres, immediately.
- (iii) Arrangements should be made for supervision of the work of price reporting through the officers of the Marketing Department, as an interim measure.
- (iv) As a measure of permanent improvement in the system of reporting not only of agricultural prices but also the various types of statistical data in the different spheres, one Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district. This Officer should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre. In Hyderabad, there is an independent statistical agency at the district and tehsil levels which could effectively assist in the supervision of various types of statistical data including price statistics.
- (v) Each market centre selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity should be carefully laid down on the lines indicated in Chapter III of the Report. These should be communicated to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture within a period of three months.

11. Madhya Bharat

11. 1. In Madhya Bharat, weekly wholesale prices of 65 commodities are collected by the Department of Economic Intelligence and Statistics for the cities of Indore and Gwalior only. The data are collected through the Investigators belonging to the Department. The prices are collected in the afternoon of Friday and are published in the Quarterly Statistical Bulletin issued by the Department. Index numbers of wholesale prices are also compiled with week-ending 19th August, 1939 as the base.

11. 2. Besides, arrangements for the collection of wholesale prices from district headquarters are also under consideration of the Government. The Collectors of districts have been addressed to supply fortnightly wholesale prices through reporting agencies to be selected by them. The response to this proposal was not satisfactory. Further the Collectors have also been requested to report month-end wholesale prices of selected commodities prevailing at district and pargana headquarters. These data are to be compiled by the Director of Land Records. The Government have a proposal to appoint two Prices Current Inspectors for supervising the work of price collection, but these posts have not yet been sanctioned. Thus no systematic data are yet being collected under either of these proposals, from the district headquarters.

11. 3. The system of regulated markets is in vogue in Madhya Bharat. The former States of Indore and Gwalior had their own Marketing Acts which were slightly different from each other in some respects. These Acts have been consolidated and made applicable to the whole State. The Act is not,

however, being enforced strictly. There are 37 regulated markets in the State and at many places, elections to the Market Committees have yet to be held under the new Act.

11. 4. Our recommendations in respect of Madhya Bharat are:—

- (i) The State Government should enforce the Agricultural Produce-Markets Act strictly in all the markets regulated under the Act. It should extend the scope of the Act to other important markets, giving preference to those which are also important from price-collection point of view. It should also study the working of the Hyderabad system of regulated markets and consider to what extent improvements can be effected in the existing arrangements in the system.
- (ii) The price data should be collected through the secretaries of the market committees, wherever regulated markets exist and through revenue agency at other centres. These agencies should be adequately trained before they are entrusted with price collection.
- (iii) In order to make the price reporting accurate and reliable, provision should be made for intensive supervision of the work of the primary reporting agency. This supervision should be done by two whole-time Prices Current Inspectors, whose appointment is already under the consideration of the Government. These Inspectors should be appointed immediately.
- (iv) The State Government should take steps to appoint a qualified Statistician in the Land Records Department to be in over-all charge of agricultural statistics including statistics of wholesale prices. In order to improve the timeliness and reliability of not only agricultural statistics including agricultural prices, but all types of statistics, collected in the district, a Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district to supervise the collection of all the statistics.

The State Government should prepare a list of market centres from which prices are to be collected and reported to different levels, for each commodity. Each market centre should be properly classified and precise specification should be laid down for each commodity within a period of three months, under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

12. Mysore

12. 1. Data on wholesale prices are collected mainly by the Chief Marketing Officer and the Director of Commerce and Industry. The data collected by each are described below.

12. 2. **Data collected by the Chief Marketing Officer.**—The Chief Marketing Officer collects wholesale prices of different commodities at different intervals in respect of important market centres as indicated below:—

- (i) Daily wholesale prices of 32 agricultural commodities at Bangalore and of 11 commodities at Devangere.
- (ii) Daily wholesale prices of important commercial crops at 8 regulated markets, viz., Tiptur, Devangere, Mysore, Chitaldurg, Shimoga, Tumkur, Arsikere and Bellary.
- (iii) Weekly wholesale prices of fruits and vegetables at Bangalore city and Civil Station markets.
- (iv) Weekly wholesale prices of bananas, papaya, sweet potatoes and tapioca from all the district headquarters.
- (v) Fortnightly wholesale prices of a large number of commodities from all the district headquarters.

The data are collected through the marketing inspectors belonging to the Marketing Department and secretaries of regulated markets. The weekly prices are collected as on Saturday while the fortnightly data are collected as on the 15th and last day of the month. The daily rates are ascertained between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The weekly and fortnightly prices are published in the State Gazette.

12. 3. Data collected by the Director of Industries and Commerce.—The Director of Industries and Commerce collects weekly wholesale prices of about 38 agricultural commodities prevailing at Bangalore mainly for the compilation of weekly and monthly index numbers of wholesale prices with the year 1914 as the base-period.

12. 4. The Agricultural Produce Markets Act has been enacted in the State and there are 8 regulated markets.

12. 5. Our recommendations in respect of Mysore are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should extend the scope of the Agricultural Produce Markets Act to all the important markets in the State. They should also study the system of regulated markets in vogue in Hyderabad and consider what improvements can be made in the existing system. This will be the only economical and efficient way of creating a reliable and permanent agency for the reporting of prices.
- (ii) Wherever regulated markets exist, the data may continue to be collected through the market committees. At other centres, the data may be collected through the marketing inspectors as at present.
- (iii) Arrangements for the inspection of the price collection through the Officers of the Marketing Department should be intensified.
- (iv) As a measure of permanent improvement in the system of reporting of not only agricultural statistics including prices, but also the various types of statistical data in the different spheres collected in the district, a Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district who should primarily be responsible for the supervision of all types of statistics. He should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics and should look for promotion in that line.
- (v) The State Government should enlarge the scope of the list of market centres for which the price data are collected and reported at different levels. The frequency of collection should also be made weekly except in the case of data required for dissemination by Radio. Each market centre should be classified and precise specification of each commodity should be laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

13. Pepsu

13. 1. In PEPSU fairly detailed statistics of wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are collected through the Marketing Section of the Agricultural Department and the Departments of Economics and Statistics and Land Records. The Civil Supplies Department was also concerned with the collection of statistics on prices. But now this department has been wound up and the work is being carried out by the three Departments mentioned above.

13. 2. Nearly all the important markets are regulated under the PEPSU Agricultural Produce and Markets Act. The Marketing Officer collects the information from all the 39 regulated markets through the secretaries of the market committees. The quotations are collected daily and the average price for each week is obtained by taking the arithmetic mean. No specifications regarding variety, grade or quality are fixed for each commodity. However, the prices collected generally relate to the fair average quality. The work of primary collection is supervised by the Marketing Staff of the Department with reference to the records of the market committees.

13. 3. The Director of Land Records and the Department of Economics and Statistics collect the wholesale price data mainly through the subordinate revenue officials. The Department of Economics and Statistics also compiles index numbers of wholesale prices with 1950 as the base.

13. 4. The price data are disseminated to the public through the Quarterly Bulletin issued by the Department of Economics and Statistics. Daily quotations in respect of selected commodities for Patiala and Bhatinda, two important markets, are broadcast through the Jullundur Radio Station.

13. 5. Our recommendations in respect of PEPSU are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should study the working of regulated markets in Hyderabad and examine to what extent improvements can be effected in the existing arrangements on the basis of such study.
- (ii) The price data should continue to be collected through the secretaries of the market committees at such centres where they exist and through the revenue agency in other centres. At each centre, one single agency should be fixed for primary reporting.
- (iii) Arrangements for supervision of the data reported by the staff of the market committees and other staff should be intensified.
- (iv) As a measure of permanent improvement in the timeliness and reliability of the various types of statistical data collected in the State, a Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district who should primarily be responsible for supervision of all the statistical data collected in the district including agricultural statistics and prices. This Officer should have the necessary statistical qualifications and training and should look for promotion in that line only.
- (v) Each market centre selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity should be carefully laid down on the lines indicated in Chapter III of the Report. This should be communicated to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture within a period of three months.

14. Rajasthan

14. 1. In Rajasthan, data on wholesale prices of various agricultural commodities are collected by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, the Director of Land Records and the Civil Supplies Department. Data collected by each of these organizations are discussed in the following paragraphs.

14. 2. **Data collected by the Bureau of Statistics.**—The Bureau collects weekly prices of 37 agricultural commodities at one centre, viz., Jaipur city as on Friday through the computers of the Bureau. Generally, the closing quotations on the price collection day are obtained except in the case of fruits and vegetables. The data are published in the Bulletin of Statistics issued by the Bureau.

14. 3. **Data collected by the Director of Land Records.**—The Office of the Director of Land Records (now forming part of the Board of Revenue) collects fortnightly wholesale prices of nine commodities from district headquarters towns on the last day of each fortnight through the Sadar Kanungo in the Office of the Collector. In some cases the prices reported relate to the average prices prevailing during the fortnight. Further, in some districts, tehsil prices are collected and averaged to give the district prices. The list of market centres from which prices are now collected has also not been drawn up with care. The district prices are published in the State Gazette.

14. 4. **Data collected through the Department of Civil Supplies.**—The Department of Civil Supplies collects prices of foodgrains and other essential articles through District Supply Officers for official purposes.

14. 5. There are no regulated markets in the State—although in some of the former princely States, the Marketing Act had been passed and a few regulated markets were established. Most of these are not functioning at present.

14. 6. Our recommendations in respect of Rajasthan are:—

- (i) The State Government should immediately take steps to enact the necessary legislation for the regulation of markets in the State. The Government might study the working of the Hyderabad model of regulated markets and consider what aspects of that system could be adopted in Rajasthan. This is the only efficient and economical way of creating a permanent and reliable agency for the reporting of prices.

- (ii) Till such an agency is established, the price data may continue to be collected through the revenue agency subject to adequate arrangements being made for supervision of its price collection work. However, wherever market committees function under the old Marketing Acts, the secretaries of the committees will be the best agency for the collection of prices at such centres.
- (iii) For supervising the price collection work, three Prices Current Inspectors should be appointed in the whole State, who should visit the different price collection centres periodically and verify the accuracy of the price data.
- (iv) As regards the permanent arrangements for the supervision of not only agricultural statistics including prices but also of all statistics collected in the district, a Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district. This Officer should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics.
- (v) The State Government should enlarge the scope of the list of markets and commodities for which prices are collected and reported at different levels. Each market centre should be classified and the precise specification of each commodity laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

15. Saurashtra

15. 1. In Saurashtra, weekly wholesale prices of 22 commodities including cereals, oilseeds, oil-cakes, cotton, gur, etc., are collected and compiled by the Director of Statistics and Planning. The data in respect of cereals are collected through mamlatdars and mahalkaris of the Revenue Department from 17 important market centres while the Civil Supplies Inspectors report the prices of commodities other than cereals. The prices relate to the closing quotations of the day and as far as practicable the variety of the commodity is specified in broad terms in the case of commodities other than foodgrains. The price data collected are not published or otherwise disseminated to the public.

15. 2. At present there is no Marketing Act in the State and there are no regulated markets. The State Government have under consideration a proposal to adopt the Bombay Act.

15. 3. Our recommendations in respect of Saurashtra are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should take immediate steps to enact legislation for the introduction of regulated markets in the State on the model of Hyderabad, as this is the most satisfactory way of creating a reliable agency for the reporting of prices.
- (ii) Till then, the existing arrangements for the reporting of prices should be continued and the data may be collected through the revenue agency located at each centre.
- (iii) In order to make the prices reported, accurate and reliable, provision should be made for intensive supervision of the work of the primary reporting agency. For this purpose, two whole-time Prices Current Inspectors should be appointed immediately, as an interim measure. These Inspectors should pay periodical visits to all the centres in their jurisdiction and verify personally the data reported by the primary agency.
- (iv) As a measure of permanent improvement in the timeliness and reliability of various types of statistical data, a Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district. He should primarily be responsible for the supervision of all the statistical data in the district including statistics of agricultural prices. This Officer should have necessary statistical qualifications and training and should look for promotion in the statistical cadre.
- (v) Each market centre selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months, under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

16. Travancore-Cochin

16. 1. Statistics of wholesale prices are collected by four Departments in this State, viz., Revenue, Civil Supplies, Agriculture and Board of Statistics. Wholesale prices at taluk headquarters are collected by the tehsildars through the village revenue officers. The data are compiled in the Statistical Section of the Revenue Department and are published in the State Gazette. The Civil Supplies Department collects prices of certain controlled commodities. The Department of Agriculture collects prices of arecanut, tapioca, sweet potatoes and papaya, through its own agencies. The Board of Statistics collects weekly wholesale prices of jaggery and molasses through its own statistical staff. There is practically very little supervision exercised over the price collection work except in the case of the data collected through the Board of Statistics.

16. 2. There are no regulated markets in the State.

16. 3. Our recommendations in respect of Travancore-Cochin are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should enact the necessary legislation to introduce the system of regulated markets in the State. It should study the Hyderabad system of regulated markets and base their new legislation on this model, subject to adaptations necessary to suit local conditions. Then alone can an efficient and economical agency be created for the reporting of price data.
- (ii) Till then, the data may continue to be obtained through the revenue agency, as an interim measure, subject to intensive supervision of its work.
- (iii) The State Government should appoint a whole-time Prices Current Inspector to supervise the work of price collection by the revenue agency.
- (iv) As regards the permanent arrangements for the supervision of all statistics including agricultural statistics and prices, a Statistical Officer should be appointed in each district. This Officer should have the necessary qualifications and training in statistics. In Travancore-Cochin, there is already a well-trained Statistical Organisation in the tehsils and districts. This should be utilized for this purpose.
- (v) The scope of the price data collected should be enlarged and prices of all important commodities should be collected as part of an integrated system of price-reporting. Each market centre should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity should be laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

17. Ajmer

17. 1. Weekly wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are collected by the Marketing Department through the marketing inspector for Ajmer and the tehsildars of the Revenue Department for Kekri and Beawar sub-divisions. Prices are not collected for any other centre as these are the only assembling as well as consuming centres and are considered to be representative of the three sub-divisions of the State. The data are collected on Monday every week. Hitherto they were being published in a Bulletin but this was discontinued for want of certain facilities.

17. 2. Our recommendations in respect of Ajmer are as follows:—

- (i) The State Government should consider the possibility of enacting legislation for establishing a system of regulated markets at the principal *mandis* in the State on the model of the system prevailing in Hyderabad. This is the most satisfactory way of setting up a permanent and reliable agency for the reporting of prices.
- (ii) Till then, the price data may continue to be collected through the existing agencies, viz., the marketing inspector in Ajmer and the Revenue agency in the other two sub-divisions of the State. As soon as the marketing staff is appointed in the other two sub-divisions also, the data may be reported by the marketing inspectors.

- (iii) The Assistant Marketing Officer in Ajmer may be entrusted with the supervision of the work of the primary reporting agencies by undertaking tours and surprise visits, as an interim measure.
- (iv) As a measure of permanent improvement the State Government should appoint immediately a Statistical Officer in the State who should be entrusted with the work of supervision of all statistics including agricultural statistics and prices.
- (v) Precise specification of the commodities for which prices are reported at each centre should be laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

18. Bhopal

18. 1. The marketing organisation in the State collects wholesale prices from important markets through the mandi committees and chaudhris of mandis. The mandi committees are non-official while the chaudhri of the mandi is a part-time honorary worker under the control of the marketing organisation. The price data are based on the record of auctions in the mandis and are published in the Government Gazette, press, etc. Although the mandi inspectors are expected to supervise the work of the primary reporting agency, the inspection is considered as nominal. The variety, quality, grade, etc., of the various commodities have not been specified. Although the Bhopal Weights and Measures Act introducing standard weights and measures in place of the existing local units, has been passed, it has not been enforced, yet.

18. 2. Our recommendations in respect of Bhopal are as follows :—

- (i) The State Government should examine the working of the regulated markets in Hyderabad, consider what improvements are necessary in the existing arrangements. in the light of local conditions and enact suitable legislation for this purpose.
- (ii) The existing agency for the reporting of prices should continue. Adequate inspection should be arranged over the collection of prices by the Statistical Officer in the State.
- (iii) Arrangements should be made for prompt publication of weekly wholesale prices in a separate Bulletin.
- (iv) Precise specification of the commodities for which prices are reported at each centre should be laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

19. Coorg

19. 1. Weekly and fortnightly wholesale prices are being collected in Coorg from all the sub-divisions of the three talukas into which the State is divided. The data are collected through parpattigars of the Revenue Department and the subordinate staff of the Rationing Department. At the State Headquarters, the Assistant Commissioner is in-charge of compilation of the price data. There is no specific supervisory agency and supervision is supposed to be done by the superior officials of the departments concerned. The price data collected are published in the State Gazette.

19. 2. Our recommendations in respect of Coorg are as follows :—

- (i) The need for enacting Agricultural Produce Markets Act in Coorg should be considered in the light of local conditions. Till this Act is passed and regulated markets are established under this Act, the revenue agency may continue to report prices as at present. However, greater supervision is necessary over the price collection work. This work should be entrusted to one of the officers of the Revenue Department who should be able to visit every market periodically and verify himself personally the accuracy of the data reported, as an interim measure.
- (ii) As regards the permanent arrangements for supervision, the State Government, should consider the need for appointing a whole-time Statistical Officer for supervising not only agricultural statistics and prices but also all statistics in the other sectors of the economy as well.

- (iii) Precise specification of the commodities for which prices are reported at each centre should be laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

20. Delhi

20. 1. Weekly wholesale prices of a large number of agricultural commodities, prevailing in Delhi as on Mondays are collected by the whole-time field staff of the Bureau of Economics and Statistics who also collect fortnightly wholesale prices from three centres, viz., Narela, Najafgarh and Mehrauli for the purpose of construction of index numbers of parity between the prices received and prices paid by the farmer. Normally, the supervision over the work of the primary reporters is expected to be done by the Statistical Assistant and the Statistical Officer in the Bureau of Economics and Statistics. With regard to the specification of commodities, the quality is prescribed only if there are two or three standard qualities currently transacted. With regard to fruits and vegetables, however, the data are collected for a fairly large number of varieties. The data are mainly intended for use by the police, hospital, military and jail authorities for their day-to-day transactions of purchase of various commodities. The data are published in the State Gazette and the Quarterly Digest of Statistics issued by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics.

20. 2. Our recommendations in respect of the Delhi State are as follows :—

- (i) The need for introducing the system of regulated markets at the principal *mandis* should be examined and if necessary the Government should introduce legislation for this purpose immediately. In this connection, the system in vogue in Hyderabad may be studied and the salient features, adopted in the light of local conditions.
- (ii) Till then the data may continue to be obtained through the existing agency. Arrangements for supervision should be strengthened.
- (iii) Precise specification of the commodities for which prices are reported at each centre should be laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

21. Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur

21. 1. In Himachal Pradesh, the Director, Land Records collects weekly wholesale prices of different agricultural commodities as on Saturdays in respect of the tehsil headquarters towns through the Office Kanungos of the Revenue Department. The data are consolidated at the district headquarters and supplied to the Director of Land Records monthly where they are further compiled. In Bilaspur, no statistics of wholesale prices are at present collected. The system of regulated markets is not in force at present, either in Himachal Pradesh or in Bilaspur.

21. 2. Our recommendations in respect of Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspur are as follows :—

- (i) The need for introducing the system of regulated markets in the State on the model of Hyderabad should be examined in the light of local conditions. Till then, the revenue agency may continue to report prices.
- (ii) It is, however, necessary to arrange for intensive supervision of the price collection work through one whole-time Prices Current Inspector specially appointed for this purpose, as an interim measure.
- (iii) As regards permanent arrangements for the supervision, in each district, there should be a District Statistical Officer who should supervise all types of statistics including agricultural statistics and prices.
- (iv) Arrangements should be made for the publication of weekly data on wholesale prices through a separate Bulletin.
- (v) Precise specification of the commodities for which prices are reported for each centre should be laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

22. Kutch

22. 1. In Kutch, some data on wholesale prices are collected at present by the Agricultural Statistician under the control of the Collector. The Collector supplies weekly wholesale prices of rice, wheat, jowar and bajra prevailing in Bhuj to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture by telegram. The data are collected through the subordinate revenue staff.

22. 2. Our recommendations in respect of Kutch are :—

- (i) The need for organizing collection of prices from additional centres such as Gandhidham may be examined.
- (ii) The data may continue to be collected through the revenue agency subject, however, to intensive supervision by the Agriculture Statistician.
- (iii) Precise specification of the commodities for which prices are reported at each centre should be laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

23. Manipur

23. 1. At the present stage of development of the State, no arrangements exist for the collection of agricultural prices data regularly. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics is, however, obtaining information regarding prices of rice at Imphal from the Deputy Commissioner.

23. 2. Our recommendation in respect of Manipur is as follows :—

The State Government should organize the collection of wholesale prices in respect of assembling centres in the State, through the revenue or other agencies as may be convenient. The precise specification of the commodities selected for price reporting should be laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

24. Tripura

24. 1. Weekly average wholesale prices of agricultural commodities are collected from sub-divisional headquarters by the State Government through the staff of Revenue Department. There is, however, no specific agency for supervision of the work of the primary agency. The data collected are not published. There is no regulated market in Tripura at present.

24. 2. Our recommendations in respect of Tripura are as follows :—

- (i) The need for introducing the system of regulated markets in the State on the model of Hyderabad should be examined in the light of local conditions.
- (ii) Till then, the data should be collected through the revenue agency, as at present.
- (iii) Arrangements should be made for intensive supervision of the price data by an officer of the Statistical Branch of the Directorate of Agriculture.
- (iv) Precise specification of the commodities selected for the price reporting should be laid down within three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

25. Vindhya Pradesh

25. 1. The Department of Statistics, Vindhya Pradesh collects fortnightly wholesale prices prevailing on the last day of each fortnight at important markets and district headquarters, through the bazar supervisors, licensed weighmen and patwaris. Some data on wholesale prices of cereals are also collected on a weekly basis for the use of the Government of India. Detailed instructions for collection of price data have been issued to the primary reporters but there is no specific supervisory agency and the work of supervision is expected to be done by the Deputy Collectors and the tehsildars of the Revenue Department as part of their normal duties. The data on wholesale prices are not published.

25. 2. Our recommendations in respect of Vindhya Pradesh are as follows:—

- (i) The need for introducing the system of regulated markets in the State on the model of Hyderabad should be examined in the light of local conditions.
- (ii) Till then, the wholesale price data may be collected through the existing agencies.
- (iii) Arrangements should be made for adequate supervision over the work of price collection by the appointment of two whole-time Prices Current Inspectors, who should pay periodical visits to the *mandis* and inspect the work of the primary reporters, as an interim measure.
- (iv) As regards the permanent arrangements for the supervision, there should be one District Statistical Officer in each district who should supervise the collection of all statistics including agricultural statistics and prices. He should have the proper qualifications and training in statistics.
- (v) Arrangements should be made for prompt publication of weekly wholesale prices in a separate Bulletin.
- (vi) Each market selected for price reporting should be suitably classified and precise specification for each commodity carefully laid down within a period of three months under intimation to the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

26. Jammu and Kashmir

26. 1. There is no systematic procedure for collection and publication of prices of various commodities in Jammu and Kashmir. The revenue agency at the tehsils draws up a price list of certain commodities fortnightly known as 'nirakhnama bazari'.

26. 2. It has not been possible for the Committee to make detailed enquiries into the system of collection of prices in Jammu and Kashmir. Our recommendations regarding the machinery for the reporting of prices, technical aspects of price reporting and the selection of centres apply to Jammu and Kashmir as well. As soon as the necessary arrangements are made for the collection of price data on the lines recommended by us, important market centres in Jammu and Kashmir should be included in the appropriate lists of centres for the different commodities envisaged in Appendices XIII and XI for reporting of prices to the Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Srinagar may be included in Appendix XIII for rice and both Srinagar and Jammu in Appendix XI under the following crops:—

Srinagar—Rice, Chillies and Almonds.

Jammu—Rice, Wheat and Maize.

26. 3. The State Government should also enact the necessary legislation for establishing a system of regulated markets in the State on the Hyderabad model. This is the most satisfactory way of creating a suitable agency for the reporting of prices.

26. 4. The State Government should also appoint whole-time District Statistical Officers in each district to supervise the collection of all statistics including agricultural statistics and agricultural prices.

APPENDIX VII

PRICE DATA COLLECTED BY CENTRAL COMMODITY COMMITTEES

Data on wholesale prices of the different agricultural commodities are collected by the respective Central Commodity Committees as part of their normal statistical work, for providing market intelligence to growers, traders and consumers, and the Government. These data are collected through a variety of agencies such as market reporters, market committees, non-official organisations such as commercial firms of repute, chambers of commerce, etc., depending upon the local agencies available at the market centres for reporting them. For example, the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology which was till recently working under the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee collects prices of sugar, gur, etc., through part-time correspondents at important sugar and gur markets in India; the Indian Central Jute Committee collects prices of jute through brokers' firms and the field staff of the Economic Research Section of the Committee; the Indian Central Cotton Committee collects prices of cotton through the market committees of regulated cotton markets in the principal cotton growing States; and the Indian Lac Cess Committee collects prices of shellac, etc., through commercial firms and trade associations only, as it has no field staff of its own for the purpose. The data are collected on daily, weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis depending upon the importance of the commodity and of the market centres, the use to which the data are put and the facilities available for reporting of prices. For instance, daily prices of sugar are collected by the Indian Sugar Trade Information Service of the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology through its correspondents in important sugar markets in the country for issuing the Sugar Market Daily Bulletin. Weekly and fortnightly prices of arecanuts are collected by the Indian Central Arecanut Committee from important assembling and importing centres through the Marketing Departments of the State Governments concerned. The data collected by the various Central Commodity Committees are described briefly in the following paragraphs:—

1. Indian Central Sugarcane Committee and Indian Institute of Sugar Technology.—The Indian Sugar Trade Information Service of the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology was started in March 1934 to meet a very keen demand for information regarding statistics of sugar in the country. Daily wholesale prices of sugar, gur and khandsari are collected from important sugar and gur markets and are published in the Sugar Market Daily Bulletin and the Sugar Market Weekly Bulletin. Besides, telegraphic reports on the average prices of sugar, gur and khandsari are obtained every Saturday from correspondents at Ambala, Delhi, Meerut, Kanpur, Bhagalpur, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. On the basis of these data, weekly market reports are compiled and broadcast from the All India Radio, Lucknow, every Tuesday evening. A monthly return of sugarcane prices is also received by the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology from all the Vacuum-Pan Sugar factories in India. On the basis of these returns, a consolidated statement showing the total price of cane delivered at the factory gate and actually received by the grower is prepared during the crushing season and published in the Indian Trade Journal and the Agricultural situation in India.

2. Indian Central Cotton Committee.—The Indian Central Cotton Committee collects daily prices of cotton, kapas and lint, and cotton seed from important upcountry centres through the cotton market committees at these centres. Weekly (Wednesday) F.O.B. prices of the varieties of cotton permitted for export are also collected from the Ports of shipment, viz., Bombay, Calcutta and Madras through an important cotton firm. Though the variety of cotton for which prices are collected is specified for each centre, the grade, quality, etc., are not defined. It is assumed that the arrivals of a specific variety at a particular market are of the fair average quality. No supervision is exercised over the work of the primary reporters by the Committee's staff. The weekly average prices of cotton, kapas and lint, and cotton seed are published in the Indian Cotton Growing Review, a quarterly Journal issued by the Committee.

3. Indian Central Jute Committee.—The Indian Central Jute Committee collects detailed data on jute prices at Calcutta and upcountry markets through the Brokers' firms at Calcutta and the senior economic investigators of the Economic Research Section of the Committee, Jute Development Staff and the State Directors of Agriculture, for the upcountry centres. No supervision is exercised over the work of primary reporters except that the inspection of the price collection work of the senior economic investigators is carried out once or twice annually. Specifications regarding variety, grade, etc., are well-defined and the time reference has also been clearly specified. The data collected are disseminated to the public mainly through Radio and the monthly Bulletin of the Committee.

Although the prices obtained for the varieties and grades are fairly representative of the areas from which they are received, the number of such centres is not large enough to give a comprehensive picture of the price movements in the entire jute growing area.

4. Indian Central Tobacco Committee.—The Indian Central Tobacco Committee collects weekly, monthly and quarterly wholesale and retail prices of tobacco from important tobacco markets in the country. Weekly prices prevailing on the last working day of the week are collected through the State Governments, secretaries of regulated market committees and the Imperial Bank of India. Monthly prices at Guntur are collected through the Chief Inspector, Tobacco Grading, Guntur. Quarterly price data for different centres in the country are collected through the staff of the Central Board of Revenue. The Committee has not established any machinery for primary collection of price data. As such, no supervision is exercised by it over the work of primary reporters. The grade, specifications and quality of different varieties of exportable tobacco are defined in accordance with the Tobacco Grading and Marketing Rules, 1937 and the prices collected by the Chief Inspector, Tobacco Grading relate to the respective grades. In the case of data collected by other agencies it has been found difficult to ensure that the data relate to the same variety, quality and grade throughout.

The price data collected are published in the Committee's Tobacco Bulletin every month. There is, however, a large diversity in the data published. For example in some cases, the lowest and highest prices are quoted, in some, the average price is given, while for a majority of centres, a single quotation is published.

5. Indian Central Coconut Committee.—The Indian Central Coconut Committee collects daily and weekly wholesale prices of copra, coconut oil and coconut oil cake from important assembling, importing and exporting centres, through local dealers, market committees and the State Governments concerned. The centres have been selected on the basis of the importance of the trade in coconut and coconut products and the prices are quoted for well-known and accepted qualities of the commodities. As there is no machinery for supervision of price collection, it is not possible to ensure that the prices relate to the same quality throughout. The weekly prices are as on a fixed day of the week except in the case of one centre for which the average of the daily prices is taken. The prices of coconut and coconut products in respect of Cochin, Alleppey, Calicut, Badagara, Mangalore, Arsikere and Tip-tur markets are published in the Committee's monthly Bulletin.

6. Indian Central Arecanut Committee.—The Indian Central Arecanut Committee collects weekly wholesale prices of arecanut at important producing, consuming and importing centres mainly through the Marketing Departments of States in which arecanut is grown, viz., Madras, Bombay, West Bengal, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin and Assam. The variety, grade and quality are not very clearly defined, in the absence of Agmark grade standards. The price data are published in the monthly bulletin issued by the Committee.

7. Indian Central Oilseeds Committee.—The Central Oilseeds Committee does not collect any price data of its own but maintains prices of important oilseeds, oils and oilcakes published by various official and non-official organisations.

8. Indian Lac Cess Committee.—The Indian Lac Cess Committee collects some data on prices of seed lac and shellac at Calcutta through the Calcutta Shellac Trade Association and the commercial firms dealing in these commodities. For stick-lac, which is the raw material for the manufacture of seed-lac and shellac, no regular prices are being maintained or published. Stick-lac contains lot of extraneous matter and its quality and grade vary to a large extent. The quotation of prices of uniform variety, quality and grade over a period of time is therefore beset with difficulties. The scope of the price data collected at present is inadequate and needs to be enlarged.

APPENDIX VIII

SCHEME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF "AN INDEX OF PARITY BETWEEN PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY THE FARMER—PUNJAB"

(Prepared by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture*)

Introduction.—Punjab ranks first among the wheat-producing provinces of India. It is a surplus province in respect of foodgrains, exporting large quantities of cereals. It is, therefore, befitting to study the economic condition of cultivators of Punjab. This can be done by an examination of the actual variations in the prices received and prices paid by the farmer and the changes in the volume of agricultural produce marketed as reflected by the Index Series constructed therefrom.

The Surveys of the Punjab Board of Economic Inquiry give a clear analysis of the economic conditions of the particular type of cultivators covered by them, although no accurate information is available about the conditions of the average cultivator. The results of the surveys of PBEI have been used in the construction of the Parity Index of Prices received to Prices paid by the Farmer in Punjab.

The problem resolves itself into the construction of the following indices:—

- A. An Index of Prices Received by the Farmer.
- B. An Index of Prices Paid by the Farmer.
- C. Parity Index of Prices Received to Prices Paid by the Farmer.

$$\text{Then Parity Index} = \frac{\text{Index of Prices Received by the Farmer} \times 100}{\text{Index of Prices Paid by the Farmer}}$$

A.—Index Number of Prices Received by the Farmer

(a) **Commodities included.**—All the important foodgrains, Sugar (raw), cotton and tobacco are included in the list, the basis of selection being the extent to which the crops are grown in the Province and their value in the agriculturists economy. The selected commodities are:—

1. Wheat, 2. Rice (Un-husked), 3. Barley, 4. Jowar, 5. Bajra, 6. Maize, 7. Gram, 8. Rape and Mustard, 9. Sugarcane (Gur), 10. Desi Cotton, 11. American Cotton and 12. Tobacco.

(b) **Prices used as data and the Centres reporting these prices.**—It would be ideal to get figures of prices actually obtained by the cultivator. But these are not available in any systematic form. So the working out of actual prices received by the Farmer is not possible and hence the wholesale prices of the selected commodities ruling at the 24 markets given below, published in the prices supplement to the Punjab Gazette by the Director of Land Records, have been utilized:—

1. Palwal (Gurgaon), 2. Ambala, 3. Jagadhri (Ambala), 4. Jullundur, 5. Ludhiana, 6. Ferozepore, 7. Abohar (Ferozepore), 8. Lahore, 9. Puttoki (Lahore), 10. Amritsar, 11. Gurdaspur, 12. Pathankot (Gurdaspur), 13. Sialkot, 14. Sargodha (Shahpur), 15. Jhelum, 16. Rawalpindi, 17. Campbellpore (Attock), 18. Montgomery, 19. Okara (Montgomery), 20. Lyallpur, 21. Gojra (Lyallpur), 22. Tandianwala (Lyallpur), 23. Jaranwala (Lyallpur) and 24. Multan.

It is assumed that, by and large, the cultivator gets increased prices in much the same proportion as the increase in the wholesale prices of these commodities in the neighbouring markets. From all the market quotations in respect of each commodity the fortnightly arithmetic average price for the whole of Punjab is computed. The monthly average is then, the simple average

* The scheme has been prepared before the partition of India and so all the references to Punjab apply to the undivided Punjab.

of the two fortnightly averages. Monthly averages are necessary because only monthly figures are available for retail prices of commodities entering into the costs of domestic expenditure.

(c) **Assignment of Weights.**—Weights are assigned to all the selected commodities on the basis of proportionate average values of the marketable surpluses of each commodity during the period 1936-37 to 1938-39. Marketable surpluses of the selected commodities have been calculated as follows:—

Marketable surpluses for Rice, Wheat, Gram, Sugarcane (gur), Barley and Tobacco have been calculated from the data given in the respective Marketing Reports published by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department. In case of Cotton, it is presumed that the whole produce is marketed. For Jowar, Bajra and Maize for which the Marketing Reports are not available, the marketable surplus is estimated to be about 50 per cent., on the basis of the assumption made by the Economic Adviser's Office in the calculation of their food Index. In the case of Rape and Mustard it is assumed that 90 per cent. of the produce is marketed. The weights are given in Annexure A.

(d) **Base prices.**—In order to facilitate comparison with Economic Advisers' All-India Index Numbers of wholesale prices, for which the base period is the week ending 19th August, 1939, the month of August, 1939 has been taken as the base period. Fortnightly quotations are available, but since for the index of prices paid by the farmer, the base period is the month of August, here also, the average of the two fortnightly prices is taken as the base price. The monthly price-relatives are calculated with reference to these base-prices.

(e) **Type of average used.**—The weighted geometric mean of these price-relatives gives the index number of prices received by the Farmer. The advantages of this method for handling price data are well-known and need not be re-stated here.

Thus the Index number of prices received by the Farmer.

$$Ir = \text{Antilog} \left[\frac{\sum W \times \text{Log Price relative}}{\sum W} \right]$$

Where Ir—the Index number of prices received by the Farmer.

W=Weight.

Σ=Summation over the commodities.

B.—Index Number of Prices Paid by the Farmer

The total cash expenditure of the cultivators falls under two principal heads:—(1) domestic expenditure and (2) farm cultivation costs. Previous experience has shown that about 60 per cent. of the total cash expenditure is on farm cultivation, the remaining 40 per cent. being spent towards domestic expenses. Out of 60 per cent. of the total cash expenditure which is on farm cultivation, it is estimated that 40 per cent. of the cash expenditure on farm cultivation (or about 24 per cent. of the total cash expenditure) is incurred under land revenues, water charges and other taxes as is shown by a study of the Farm Accounts. It is assumed that this 24 per cent. of the total cash expenditure on farm cultivation remains constant over sufficiently long stretches of time and will not show the general trend in the other cash expenditure. Hence it has been decided to omit the consideration of taxes in the farm cultivation costs. It is advisable to work out separate indices for Domestic Expenditure and Farm cultivation Costs and combine these into the index of prices paid by the farmer in the ratio 40:36 or roughly 53:47.

(1) Index of Domestic Expenses

(a) **Items included.**—The main items of expenditure of a cultivator are food, fuel, dress, lighting, medicine, travelling, religion, social, amusements and luxuries. An idea of the relative importance of each of these items can be had from a study of the family budgets of the Risale-Wala tenants. The average expenditure in cash as well as kind per family, for the year 1938-39, under each item is given in Annexure B. It will be seen that a greater portion of food and the whole of fuel are obtained from the farm itself. Also, only a negligible sum is spent on housing and education, and so they are

excluded from the index. Expenditure on items like medicine, travelling religion and social is too irregular to form the basis of deductions regarding the prosperity of peasants and so these also have been excluded. Thus the index number of domestic expenditure is based on the expenditure on food (purchased from outside), dress, lighting and luxuries, which is 70 per cent of the total cash expenditure on domestic expenditure and may be taken to be representative of the whole expenditure.

Each group has been divided into sub-groups, *e.g.*, under dress, dhoties shirting and coarse muslin are included, on the assumption that these are representative. Kerosene and matches are the only items chosen under the lighting group. Tobacco is the chief luxury of the cultivators apart from "Drink" which could not be included in the index for want of price-quotations. Fruits and vegetables have been excluded from the "Food" group as the demand for these commodities is mostly met from the farm, and all the other major items in food have been included. The final list is as follows:—

Food.—1 Rice, 2 Wheat, 3 Wheat Flour, 4 Gram, 5 Arhar and Masur, 6 Urad, 7 Mung Dal, 8 Raw Sugar, 9 Refined Sugar, 10 Salt, 11 Meat, 12 Milk, 13 Ghee, 14 Sarson oil.

Clothing.—1 Dhoti, 2 Shirting and 3 Muslin, coarse.

Lighting.—1 Kerosene, 2 Matches.

Luxuries.—Tobacco.

(b) **Prices used as data.**—The monthly retail prices of the commodities included in the index have been taken from the Punjab Gazette wherein the retail prices ruling at Sialkot, Ludhiana, Rohtak, Lahore and Multan are published by the Director of Industries, being the data for the working class cost of living index numbers. It is likely that the urban prices are relatively lower than the rural prices, but in the absence of more reliable data, these figures may be taken, on the assumption that the price fluctuations and relative variations affect both the rural and urban prices alike. The simple average of the prices ruling at the five centres is taken to represent the provincial retail price.

(c) **Weights.**—Weights are assigned on the basis of the family budgets of the six Risale-Wala Tenants and the cost of living Index numbers published by the Director of Industries. Weights proportional to the value of the goods purchased from outside have been taken in combining the different price relatives. In allotting weights to the different items within a group, the weights allotted to the corresponding items in the working class cost of living index have been taken into consideration. Perhaps there is not much variation between the rural and urban expenditure in respect of the relative proportion of expenses on items within a sub-group.

As only the marketable surpluses were taken in arriving at the relative weights to be allotted to the various commodities in the Index of Prices received by the farmer, it has been decided to exclude farm contribution towards food, etc., as it has no direct bearing on the index of farmer's expenditure. Annexure C gives the weights assigned to the different items.

(d) **Base prices.**—Retail prices ruling in the month of August 1939 have been taken for the same reason as before.

(e) **Type of average.**—The weighted geometric mean gives the index number of Domestic Expenditure.

$$Id = \text{Antilog} \left[\frac{\sum W \times \text{Log Price relative}}{\sum W} \right]$$

Id=Index number of the domestic expenditure.

W=Weight.

Σ=Summation over commodities.

(2) Index of Farm Cultivation Costs

(a) **Items included.**—Bullock labour, human labour and costs of implements are the chief items of expenditure and represent 60 per cent. of the cash expenditure on farm cultivation. To evaluate the bullock labour, we have to take into account, the cost of their maintenance, the cost of fodder and feeds consumed, interest on capital invested on livestock, depreciation and replacement charges. The farmer looks after his cattle, the fodder is

obtained from the common village grazing land and the straw from the harvest. So only the expenditure on feeds and concentrates like bran and cotton seeds may be taken to represent this item. Depreciation and interest may be valued at a fixed percentage of the cost of a pair of bullocks, and the variations therein reflect the variations in the expenditure on this item. For agricultural labour, the monthly agricultural wages may be used. But owing to the lack of data it is proposed to use the prices of wheat, which is the main food article in Punjab, in place of agricultural wages on the assumption that the agricultural wages more or less vary in the same proportion as the prices of wheat. Implements are either made of wood or iron or steel. Wood is locally obtained and so it is not taken into account. Price quotations of iron and steel are not used because they are not available in the desired form. Hence, prices of iron and steel articles, e.g., plates, bars and rounds are taken into account.

(b) **Prices used as data.**—For prices of bullocks, bran and cotton seed, the wholesale fortnightly prices published in the Punjab Gazette, have been used. The fortnightly median averages have been worked out for each of these items. As the cash wages are on a par with the wages in kind, the variation in price of wheat is taken to represent the fluctuations in the agricultural wages. When the data for monthly agricultural wages are available, they will be substituted.

The weekly quotations of steel under the specification "Tata's Commercial" in respect of plates and bars and rounds have been taken from the "Calcutta Prices Current and Money Market". Monthly averages have been computed for the price of plates and bars and rounds separately and the mean of the two averages gives the price of steel and hence the cost of implements.

(c) **Weights assigned.**—Of the total expenditure on bullock labour, it is estimated that about 60 per cent. is spent on fodder and feeds, 20 per cent. on depreciation, etc., and the remaining 20 per cent. covers miscellaneous expenses (Source: I.C.A.R. cost of Production Enquiry). The most of concentrates and fodder are in the ratio of one to three, and the expenditure on feeds can thus be worked out. Bran and cotton seed have been combined roughly in two to one proportion. Subject to these conditions, the weights allotted to different items are proportional to the respective amounts spent on them, as given in Annexure B. The labour contributed by the cultivator's family has been excluded from the expenditure under this head, as it does not influence the index of farm cultivation costs. The weights are given in Annexure C.

(d) **Base prices.**—The average prices for the month of August, 1939 have been taken as the base prices.

(e) **Type of average.**—The weighted geometric mean of the price relatives gives the index of farm cultivation costs—

$$I_f = \text{Antilog} \left[\frac{\sum W \times \text{Log Price relative}}{\sum W} \right]$$

I_f = Index number of farm cultivation costs.

W = Weights.

Σ = Summation over commodities.

Thus the index of prices paid by the farmer is the weighted geometric mean of the respective indices, the weights being as given below:—

	Weight
Index of Domestic Expenditure	53
Index of Farm cultivation Costs	47
TOTAL	100

Then, the parity index is equal to:—

$$\frac{\text{Index of prices received by the Farmer} \times 100}{\text{Index of prices paid by the Farmer}}$$

ANNEXURE 'A'

ASSIGNMENT OF WEIGHTS

Commodity	Production—Average 1936-37 to 1938-39. (‘000 tons)	Marketable surplus—Average 1936-37 to 1938-39 (‘000 tons)	Harvest prices—Average 1936-37 to 1938-39. (Rupees per Md.)	Proportional value of marketable surplus	Weight
1. Wheat	3,451	2,117	2·4157	512	49
2. Rice, unhusked	347	196	6·9896	39	4
3. Barley	188	114	1·8750	21	2
4. Jowar	94	47	2·2604	11	1
5. Bajra	273	173	2·4167	33	3
6. Maize	394	197	2·1875	43	4
7. Gram	656	308	2·7083	83	8
8. Rape & Mustard	123	111	4·5417	50	5
9. Sugarcane	361	253	3·9583	100	10
10. Tobacco	30	24	7·3125	18	2
11. Cotton, Desi	102	102	5·0208	51	5
12. Cotton, American	118	118	6·2500	74	7
			Total:	1,035	100

ANNEXURE 'B'

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER FAMILY OF THE SIX RISALE-WALA
TENANTS, 1938-39.

Farm Expenditure :

	Farm Expenditure (Rupees)	Percentage on the total
Human Labour	42·13	4·08
Bullock Labour	185·53	17·98
Implements	8·14	0·79
Seeds	26·44	2·56
Artisans	11·35	1·11
Water rates	108·14	10·48
Manure (Purchased)	0·65	0·06
Rent (Gross)	643·40	62·37
Weighing Charges	5·69	0·55
Miscellaneous	0·18	0·02
TOTAL	1,031·65	100·00

Domestic Expenditure :

	Total (Rupees)	Supplied by farm (Rupees)	Purchased from outside (Rupees)	Percentage on the total
Food	192·52	136·94	55·58	30·89
Fuel	16·96	16·96	..	..
Dress	59·60	3·12	56·48	31·39
Housing	1·66	..	1·66	0·92
Lighting	3·89	..	3·89	2·16
Medicines	9·66	..	9·66	5·37
Travelling	23·84	..	23·84	13·25
Education	1·42	..	1·42	0·79
Religion	7·98	..	7·98	4·44
Social	11·01	..	11·01	6·12
Amusement and Luxuries	6·81	..	6·81	3·79
Miscellaneous	1·58	..	1·58	0·88
TOTAL	336·93	157·02	179·91	100·00

Source.—Punjab Board of Economic Inquiry
Farm Accounts 1938-39
Family Budgets 1938-39

NOTE.—For Farm Expenditure, the accounts of only those six cultivators whose family Budgets were studied, have been considered, out of 33.

ANNEXURE 'C'

A STATEMENT SHOWING RELATIVE WEIGHTS ATTACHED TO THE DIFFERENT ITEMS IN THE INDEX OF PRICES PAID BY THE FARMER

Total Expenditure

Domestic Expenditure	53
Farm cultivation Costs excluding taxes	47
TOTAL	<u>100</u>

Domestic Expenditure		Farm cultivation Costs	
Commodities	Relative Weights	Items	Relative Weights
<i>Food</i>		Bullock Labour (Cotton seed	
1. Rice (Common)	3	10 Bran 19 Depreciation 38)	67
2. Wheat	7	Human Labour	28
3. Wheat-Flour	5	Implements	5
4. Gram	1	TOTAL	<u>100</u>
5. Arhar & Masur	1		
6. Urd	1		
7. Mung	1		
8. Sugar Raw	10		
9. Sugar-refined	5		
10. Salt	1		
11. Meat	2		
12. Milk	3		
13. Ghee	4		
14. Sarson	1		
TOTAL FOOD	<u>45</u>		
<i>Lighting</i>			
1. Kerosene Oil	2		
2. Matches, etc.	1		
TOTAL LIGHTING	<u>3</u>		
<i>Clothing</i>			
1. Dhoti	15		
2. Shirting	16		
3. Muslin (Coarse)	15		
TOTAL CLOTHING	<u>46</u>		
<i>Luxuries</i>			
Tobacco	6		
TOTAL LUXURIES	<u>6</u>		
GRAND TOTAL	<u>100</u>		

APPENDIX IX

PROFORMA FOR THE COLLECTION OF WHOLESALE PRICES

Return of Wholesale Prices

Name of centre :

for the week ending Friday.....

State :

Time of visit to the

District :

market.....

Name of Com- modity	Variety and quality	Local unit	Price per local unit	Standard (All-India) unit	Price per standard (All-India) unit	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Date of Posting :

*Signature of the Reporter.**Designation.*

APPENDIX X
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COLLECTION OF WHOLESALE PRICES

I. General

1. The wholesale price is generally taken as the rate at which a relatively large transaction of purchase usually for further sale is effected.

2. The price quotations should be obtained by actually visiting the markets and observing a few major transactions supplemented with oral enquiries in the market. Wherever regulated markets exist, the price records of the markets should be utilised in reporting the prices.

II. Nature of quotation and period to which it should relate

3. The quotation should relate to the actual price at which the transactions take place irrespective of the terms of contract and without excluding the different incidentals such as charges for weighment, wholesaler's commission, cost of container, etc., if they are normally included in the price quoted.

4. The wholesale prices should be collected as on Friday every week, where the markets are held every day. Where the markets are held on specified days of the week, the prices reported should relate to the market day preceding the Friday. If the day fixed for price reporting happens to be a holiday, the price quoted should relate to the previous working day. Where the holiday is known in advance, the reporter should visit the market on the previous day and collect the prices on that day. The fact should be specifically mentioned in the return.

5. The quotation should relate to the modal price (*i.e.*, the price at which most of the transactions take place) during the peak period of marketing.

6. The quotation should refer to actual transactions, nominal quotations being avoided so far as possible.

7. If no transactions take place on the day of report, the price quoted may relate to the transactions on the previous day.

8. Differences in the prices of the same variety and quality of the commodity between different shops are bound to be small and may be ignored.

9. During the period when statutory rationing is in force the wholesale issue rates to ration shops should be quoted. Where fair price shop prices and open market quotations are simultaneously available due to partial control, both should be quoted. A rough estimate of the relative proportion of the respective transactions at the fair price shops and in the open market might be formed and submitted once in two months or so.

III. Specification of variety

10. The variety and the quality of the commodity to which the prices should relate should be specified for each market. If only a single variety is commonly transacted and its arrivals are continuous throughout the year, this variety should be selected for that commodity. If this is not possible, two or three additional varieties which are most common and which are sufficiently close to the original variety should be fixed up in advance and one of them should be quoted, if the original variety ceases to arrive in the market. However, as soon as the variety originally fixed comes back, prices reported should relate to that variety. The prices reported should relate to the fair average quality.

11. Whenever there is a change in variety, the price of the new variety during the previous one or two weeks should also be given to enable comparisons.

12. When both old and the new crops are marketed simultaneously, the prices of both should be quoted for 4 to 6 weeks.

IV. Unit of Quotation

13. The wholesale prices should be quoted in terms of rupees and annas per standard maund of 82 $\frac{2}{7}$ lbs. and other appropriate units. The primary reporters should collect the prices in terms of local measures and should convert them into all-India standard measures. The prices reported to the Price Collecting Authority in the State and to other authorities should be quoted in all-India standard measures.

14. For each market, the commodities in respect of which prices are to be obtained and the authorities to whom the returns are to be supplied will be fixed in advance. The requisite copies of the return should be prepared immediately after the prices are ascertained and should be posted on the same day. Where the data are to be conveyed through telegram, the telegram should be issued on the same evening, as far as practicable. It has to be remembered that timeliness is the essence of price reporting and every effort should be made to despatch the price return by post or by telegram on the same day.

V. Remarks on columns of the proforma

The following remarks are offered on the various columns of the proforma :—

- Col. 1.—Enter the names of the commodities which have been selected for price reporting at the reporting centre.
- Col. 2.—Variety and quality—The particular variety and quality of the commodity selected for price reporting should be given here. In specifying the variety, its name should be indicated, *e.g.*, in case of rice or paddy, it will not be enough to specify the variety as fine, medium or coarse. The actual name of the variety should be given and its classification into fine, medium and coarse or first sort or second sort should be given. Regarding the quality, generally the fair average quality should be selected and this should be mentioned in Col. 2.
- Col. 3.—Specify the local unit, giving the name and also its conversion into standard units.
- Col. 4.—Give the price in terms of local units, *i.e.*, the price in terms of which the actual transactions take place.
- Col. 5.—Give the standard all-India unit, *e.g.*, maund of 82 $\frac{2}{7}$ lbs. for grains, bale of 392 lbs. for cotton, etc.
- Col. 6.—The price in local units should be converted into standard all-India units and should be given in Col. 6.

Remarks column—Mention any important factors affecting the prices on the day of the report in this column. The changes in variety may also be indicated in this column. Give also appropriate explanations for variations exceeding 10 per cent. as compared to the previous report.

Columns 3 and 4 are to be filled up in the proforma prescribed for the collection of prices. While sending the price return to the Price Collecting Authority at the State Headquarters or at the Centre, columns 3 and 4 need not be filled.

If the report relates to any day other than Friday, indicate the actual day and date at the top left-hand corner of the table.

APPENDIX XI ✓

LIST OF CENTRES FROM WHICH THE DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS
AND STATISTICS, MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, SHOULD
OBTAIN WHOLESALE PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

A.—Cereals and Gream

State	Centre	District
R I C E		
1. ANDHRA	1. Kakinada	East Godavari.
	2. Nellore	Nellore.
	3. Tadepalligudem	West Godavari.
	4. Vijayawada	Krishna.
	5. Tenali	Guntur.
	6. Parvatipuram	Srikakulam.
	7. Vizianagaram	Vishakapatnam.
	8. Tirupati	Chittoor.
	9. Cuddapah	Cuddapah.
	10. Hindupur	Anantapur.
	11. Kurnool	Kurnool.
2. ASSAM	1. Gauhati	Kamrup.
	2. Tihu	"
	3. Sibsagar	Sibsagar.
	4. Jorhat	"
	5. Tezpur	Darrang.
	6. Dhubri	Goalpara.
	7. Badati	Lakhimpur.
	8. Nowgong	Nowgong.
	9. Haikandi	Cachar.
	10. Shillong	Garo.
3. BIHAR	1. Purulia	Manbhum.
	2. Ranchi	Ranchi.
	3. Dumka	Santhal
		Parganas.
	4. Forbesganj	Purnea.
	5. Jamshedpur	Singhbhum.
	6. Chaibasa	"
	7. Arrah	Shahabad.
	8. Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh.
	9. Motihari	Champaran.
	10. Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur.
	11. Nirmali	"
	12. Gaya	Gaya.
	13. Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur.
	14. Jayanagar	Darbhanga.
	15. Patna City	Patna.
	16. Khagaria	Monghyr.
	17. Chapra	Saran.
	18. Saharsa	Saharsa.
4. BOMBAY	1. Kalyan	Thana.
	2. Mahad	Kolaba.
	3. Chiplun	Ratnagiri.
	4. Haliyal	Kanara.
	5. Ankola	"
	6. Nandgarh	Belgaum.
	7. Bulsar	Surat.
	8. Akkiallur	Dharwar.
	9. Kolhapur	Kolhapur.
	10. Matar	Kaira.
	11. Ghoti	Nasik.
	12. Poona	Poona.

State	Centre	District
5. MADHYA PRADESH	1. Raipur	Raipur.
	2. Akaltara	Bilaspur.
	3. Jagdalpur	Bastar.
	4. Drug	Drug.
	5. Raigarh	Raigarh.
	6. Surajpur	Sarguja.
	7. Gondia	Bhandara.
	8. Chanda	Chanda.
	9. Waraseoni	Balaghat.
	10. Nagpur	Nagpur.
	11. Jabalpur	Jabalpur.
	12. Mandla	Mandla.
	13. Chhindwara	Chhindwara.
6. MADRAS	1. Kumbakonam	Tanjore.
	2. Nagapatnam	"
	3. Madras	Madras.
	4. Chidambaram	South Arcot.
	5. Kozhikode	Malabar.
	6. Palghat	"
	7. Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli.
	8. Virudhunagar	Ramnathapuram.
	9. Madurai	Madurai.
	10. Tiruchirapalli	Tiruchirapalli.
	11. Kancheepuram	Chingleput.
	12. Vellore	North Arcot.
	13. Salem	Salem.
	14. Erode	Coimbatore.
	15. Mangalore	South Kanara.
7. ORISSA	1. Sambalpur	Sambalpur.
	2. Balasore	Balasore.
	3. Jeypore	Koraput.
	4. Cuttack	Cuttack.
	5. Puri	Puri.
	6. Berhampur	Ganjam.
	7. Baripada	Mayurbhanj.
	8. Rajgangpur	Sundargarh.
	9. Champua	Keonjhar.
	10. Angul	Dhenkanal
	11. Sonapur	Bolangir.
	12. Khariar Road	Kalahandi.
8. PUNJAB	1. Amritsar	Amritsar.
	2. Dinanagar	Gurdaspur.
	3. Karnal	Karnal.
9. UTTAR PRADESH	1. Nowgarh	Basti.
	2. Nautanwa	Gorakhpur.
	3. Balrampur	Gonda.
	4. Kotdwara	Garhwal.
	5. Deoria	Deoria.
	6. Haldwani	Nainital.
	7. Banaras	Banaras.
	8. Bahraich	Bahraich.
	9. Azamgarh	Azamgarh.
	10. Mirzapur	Mirzapur.
	11. Saharanpur	Saharanpur.
	12. Deoband	"
	13. Dehra Dun	Dehra Dun.
	14. Shahjehanpur	Shahjehanpur.
	15. Kanpur	Kanpur.

State	Centre	District
9. UTTAR PRADESH— <i>contd.</i>	16. Etawah	Etawah.
	17. Attara	Banda.
	18. Lucknow	Lucknow.
	19. Faizabad	Faizabad.
	20. Allahabad	Allahabad.
	21. Ghazipur	Ghazipur.
	22. Ballia	Ballia.
	23. Kheri	Kheri.
	24. Sitapur	Sitapur.
	25. Chandausi	Moradabad.
	26. Muzaffarnagar	Muzaffarnagar.
	10. WEST BENGAL	1. Sainthia	Birbhum.
2. Balurghat		West Dinajpur.
3. Matiahat		24-Parganas.
4. Asansol		Burdwan
5. Contai		Midnapore.
6. Midnapore		"
7. Calcutta		Calcutta.
8. Cooch Behar Sadar		Cooch Behar.
9. Dinhata		"
10. Burdwan		Burdwan.
11. Bankura		Bankura.
12. Berhampur		Murshidabad.
13. Jalpaiguri		Jalpaiguri
14. English Bazar		Malda.
15. Krishnagar		Nadia.
16. Bakshihat		Howrah.
17. Matigara		Darjeeling.
11. HYDERABAD.	1. Nizamabad	Nizamabad.
	2. Warangal	Warangal.
	3. Mahbubnagar	Mahbubnagar.
	4. Bhongir	Nalgonda.
	5. Hyderabad	Hyderabad.
	6. Sadashivpet	Medak.
12. MADHYA BHARAT	1. Dabra	Gwalior.
	2. Indore	Indore.
13. MYSORE	1. Shimoga	Shimoga.
	2. Mysore	Mysore.
	3. Hassan	Hassan.
	4. Bangalore	Bangalore.
	5. Bellary	Bellary.
14. PEPSU	1. Kapurthala	Kapurthala.
	2. Patiala	Patiala.
15. RAJASTHAN	1. Banswara	Banswara.
	2. Dungarpur	Dungarpur.
	3. Dholpur	Dholpur.
16. SAURASHTRA	1. Junagadh	Sorath.
	2. Rajkot	Madhya Saurashtra
17. TRAVANCORE-COCHIN	1. Trivandrum	Trivandrum.
	2. Nagercoil	"
	3. Ernakulam	Trichur.
	4. Alleppey	Quilon.
	5. Chengancherry	Kottayam.

State	Centre	District
18. BHOPAL	Bhopal	Bhopal.
19. COORG	Mercara	Coorg.
20. DELHI	Delhi	Delhi.
21. HIMACHAL PRADESH	Mandi	Mandi.
22. KUTCH	Bhuj	Kutch.
23. MANIPUR	Imphal	Manipur.
24. TRIPURA	Agartala	Tripura.
25. VINDHYA PRADESH	1. Kotma 2. Sidhi 3. Rewa	Shahdol. Sidhi. Rewa.
J O W A R		
1. ANDHRA	1. Nandyal 2. Cuddapah 3. Anantapur 4. Guntur 5. Nellore 6. Vijayawada	Kurnool. Cuddapah. Anantapur. Guntur. Nellore. Krishna.
2. BOMBAY	1. Hubli 2. Bagalkot (Kharif) 3. Bijapur (Rabi) 4. Gokak 5. Mohal 6. Sangli 7. Karad 8. Surat 9. Kolhapur 10. Ankeswar 11. Dhond 12. Ahmednagar 13. Patan 14. Chalisgaon	Dharwar. Bijapur. Belgaum. Sholapur. Satara South. Satara North. Surat. Kolhapur. Broach. Poona. Ahmednagar. Mehsana. East Khandesh.
3. MADHYA PRADESH	1. Akola 2. Yeotmal 3. Amraoti 4. Nagpur 5. Malkapur 6. Wardha 7. Chanda 8. Chhindwara 9. Jabalpur 10. Nimar	Akola. Yeotmal. Amraoti. Nagpur. Buldana. Wardha. Chanda. Chhindwara. Jabalpur. Nimar.
4. MADRAS	1. Coimbatore 2. Madurai 3. Salem 4. Tiruchirapalli 5. Tirunelveli 6. Cuddalore	Coimbatore. Madurai. Salem. Tiruchirapalli. Tirunelveli. South Arcot.
5. ORISSA	Cuttack	Cuttack.

State	Centre	District
6. PUNJAB	1. Rohtak 2. Hodal 3. Abohar	Rohtak. Gurgaon. Ferozepore.
7. UTTAR PRADESH	1. Jhansi 2. Agra 3. Banda 4. Kanpur 5. Kalpi 6. Hardoi 7. Banaras 8. Maudaha 9. Mathura 10. Bahraich 11. Gorakhpur 12. Ghazipur	Jhansi. Agra. Banda. Kanpur. Jalaun. Hardoi. Banaras. Hamirpur. Mathura. Bahraich. Gorakhpur. Ghazipur.
8. WEST BENGAL	Calcutta	Calcutta.
9. HYDERABAD	1. Gulbarga 2. Nanded 3. Parbhani 4. Raichur 5. Hyderabad 6. Adilabad 7. Bidar	Gulbarga. Nanded. Parbhani. Raichur. Hyderabad. Adilabad. Bidar.
10. MADHYA BHARAT	1. Morena 2. Ujjain 3. Guna 4. Ratlam 5. Indore 6. Khargone	Morena. Ujjain. Guna. Ratlam. Indore. Nimar.
11. MYSORE	1. Hospet 2. Chitaldrug 3. Bangalore	Bellary. Chitaldrug. Bangalore.
12. PEPSU	1. Narnaul 2. Patiala	Mahendargarh. Patiala.
13. RAJASTHAN	1. Jhalawar 2. Nagaur 3. Bundi 4. Bharatpur 5. Chittorgarh	Jhalawar. Nagaur. Bundi. Bharatpur Chittorgarh.
14. SAURASHTRA	1. Rajkot 2. Jamnagar 3. Bhavnagar	Madhya Saurashtra. Halar. Gohilwad.
15. AJMER	Ajmer	Ajmer.
16. BHOPAL	Bhopal	Bhopal.
17. DELHI	Delhi	Delhi.
18. HIMACHAL PRADESH	Mandi	Mandi.
19. KUTCH	Bhuj	Kutch.
20. VINDHYA PRADESH	1. Tikamgarh 2. Satna	Tikamgarh. Satna.

State	Centre	District
B A J R A		
1. ANDHRA	1. Visakhapatnam 2. Nellore 3. Chittoor	Visakhapatnam. Nellore. Chittoor.
2. BOMBAY	1. Patan 2. Nadiad 3. Deesa 4. Sinnar 5. Karad 6. Ahmednagar 7. Baramati 8. Dhulia 9. Amreli 10. Sangli	Mehsana. Kaira. Banaskantha. Nasik. Satara North. Ahmednagar. Poona. West Khandesh. Amreli. Satara South.
3. MADHYA PRADESH	1. Akola. 2. Yeotmal 3. Malkapur 4. Nagpur.	Akola Yeotmal. Buldana. Nagpur.
4. MADRAS	1. Coimbatore 2. Salem 3. Tiruchirapalli	Coimbatore. Salem. Tiruchirapalli.
5. ORISSA	Cuttack	Cuttack.
6. PUNJAB	1. Hissar 2. Moga 3. Rohtak	Hissar. Ferozepur. Rohtak.
7. UTTAR PRADESH	1. Agra 2. Ujhani 3. Jaswantnagar 4. Kalpi 5. Kanpur 6. Banaras 7. Chandausi 8. Hathras 9. Bahraich 10. Gorakhpur	Agra. Budaun. Etawah. Jalaun. Kanpur. Banaras. Moradabad. Aligarh. Bahraich. Gorakhpur.
8. HYDERABAD	1. Aurangabad 2. Bhir 3. Hyderabad	Aurangabad. Bhir. Hyderabad.
9. MADHYA BHARAT	1. Morena 2. Bhind	Morena. Bhind.
10. MYSORE	1. Bellary 2. Chitaldrug 3. Bangalore	Bellary. Chitaldrug. Bangalore.
11. PEPSU	1. Dadri 2. Narnaul 3. Mansa 4. Barnala	Mahendargarh. " " Bhatinda. Barnala.
12. RAJASTHAN	1. Jodhpur 2. Ganganagar 3. Bandikui 4. Barmer 5. Jhunjhunu	Jodhpur. Ganganagar. Jaipur. Barmer. Jhunjhunu.

State	Centre	District
13. SAURASHTRA	1. Rajkot 2. Jamnagar 3. Junagadh 4. Bhavnagar	Madhya Saurashtra. Halar. Sorath. Gohilwad.
14. AJMER	Ajmer	Ajmer.
15. BHOPAL	Bhopal	Bhopal.
16. DELHI	Delhi	Delhi.
17. KUTCH	Bhuj	Kutch.
M A I Z E		
1. ANDHRA	Guntur	Guntur.
2. BIHAR	1. Nagauchia 2. Chapra 3. Khagaria 4. Motihari 5. Bhagalpur 6. Patna 7. Muzaffarpur 8. Purnea	Bhagalpur. Saran. Monghyr. Champaran. Bhagalpur. Patna. Muzaffarpur. Purnea.
3. BOMBAY	1. Dohad 2. Gokak 3. Sabarkantha 4. Kaira	Panch Mahals. Belgaum. Sabarkantha. Kaira.
4. MADHYA PRADESH	1. Jagdalpur 2. Chhindwara 3. Ambikapur	Bastar. Chhindwara. Sarguja.
5. MADRAS	Tanjore	Tanjore.
6. PUNJAB	1. Hoshiarpur 2. Jullundur 3. Ludhiana 4. Tarantaran	Hoshiarpur. Jullundur. Ludhiana. Amritsar.
7. UTTAR PRADESH	1. Lakhimpur 2. Bahraich 3. Balrampur 4. Hathras 5. Chandausi 6. Jaunpur 7. Basti 8. Unnao 9. Bulandshahr 10. Hapur	Kheri. Bahraich. Gonda. Aligarh. Moradabad. Jaunpur. Basti. Unnao. Bulandshahr. Meerut.
8. WEST BENGAL	1. Kalimpong 2. Calcutta	Darjeeling. Calcutta.
9. HYDERABAD	1. Karimnagar 2. Medak 3. Nizamabad	Karimnagar. Medak. Nizamabad.
10. MADHYA BHARAT	1. Jhabua 2. Rajgarh	Jhabua. Dhar.

State	Centre	District
11. PEPSU	1. Barnala 2. Doraha 3. Fatehgarh Sahib	Barnala. Malerkotla. Fatehgarh Sahib.
12. RAJASTHAN	1. Bhilwara 2. Udaipur 3. Chittorgarh 4. Dungarpur 5. Jaipur	Bhilwara. Udaipur. Chittorgarh. Dungarpur. Jaipur.
13. HIMACHAL PRADESH	1. Mandi 2. Chamba 3. Nahan	Mandi. Chamba. Sirmur.
14. VINDHYA PRADESH	Rewa	Rewa.
R A G I		
1. ANDHRA	1. Madanapalle 2. Nellore 3. Srikakulam 4. Vizianagaram 5. Anantapur	Chittoor. Nellore. Srikakulam. Visakhapatnam Anantapur.
2. BIHAR	Jaynagar	Darbhanga.
3. BOMBAY	1. Ghoti 2. Mahad. 3. Chiplun	Nasik. Kolaba. Ratnagiri.
4. MADRAS	1. Salem 2. Vellore 3. Coimbatore	Salem. North Arcot. Coimbatore.
5. ORISSA	1. Berhampore 2. Jeypore 3. Kesinga 4. Cuttack	Ganjam. Koraput. Kalahandi. Cuttack.
6. UTTAR PRADESH	Tehri Garhwal	Garhwal.
7. MYSORE	1. Bangalore 2. Hassan 3. Mysore 4. Kolar 5. Tumkur	Bangalore. Hassan. Mysore. Kolar. Tumkur.
W H E A T		
1. ANDHRA	Kurnool	Kurnool.
2. ASSAM	Shillong	Garo Hills.
3. BIHAR	1. Khagaria 2. Arrah 3. Gaya 4. Chapra 5. Jaynagar 6. Motihari 7. Patna 8. Jamshedpur	Monghyr. Shahabad. Gaya. Saran. Darbhanga. Champaran. Patna. Singhbhum.

State	Centre	District
4. BOMBAY	1. Patan 2. Deesa 3. Annigeri 4. Niphad 5. Dhanduka 6. Bombay 7. Nadiad 8. Bijapur 9. Talod 10. Nandurbar 11. Poona	Mehsana. Banaskantha. Dharwar. Nasik. Ahmedabad. Bombay. Kaira. Bijapur. Sabarkantha. West Khandesh. Poona.
5. MADHYA PRADESH	1. Sagar 2. Hoshangabad 3. Jabalpur 4. Nagpur 5. Amraoti 6. Chhindwara 7. Betul 8. Wardha 9. Chanda	Sagar. Hoshangabad. Jabalpur. Nagpur. Amraoti. Chhindwara. Betul. Wardha. Chanda.
6. MADRAS	Madras	Madras.
7. ORISSA	1. Cuttack 2. Balasore	Cuttack. Balasore.
8. PUNJAB	1. Moga 2. Abohar 3. Tarantaran 4. Karnal 5. Jullundur 6. Ludhiana 7. Sonapat 8. Gurdaspur	Ferozepur. " Amritsar. Karnal. Jullundur. Ludhiana. Rohtak. Gurdaspur.
9. UTTAR PRADESH	1. Hapur 2. Chandausi 3. Hardoi 4. Kanpur 5. Bahraich 6. Mainpuri 7. Hathras 8. Kalpi 9. Banaras 10. Azamgarh 11. Sitapur 12. Dehra Dun 13. Maudaha 14. Nowgarh 15. Gorakhpur 16. Balrampur 17. Saharanpur 18. Shahjehanpur 19. Lucknow 20. Agra 21. Badaun 22. Lansdowne 23. Kheri 24. Auraiya	Meerut. Moradabad. Hardoi. Kanpur. Bahraich. Mainpuri. Aligarh. Jalaun. Banaras. Azamgarh. Sitapur. Dehra Dun. Hamirpur. Basti. Gorakhpur. Gonda. Saharanpur. Shahjehanpur. Lucknow. Agra. Badaun. Garhwal. Kheri. Etawah.
10. WEST BENGAL	1. Calcutta 2. Jiaganj 3. Ratanpur	Calcutta. Murshidabad. Malda.

State	Centre	District
11. HYDERABAD	1. Jalna 2. Latur 3. Hingoli 4. Hyderabad	Aurangabad. Osmanabad. Parbhani. Hyderabad.
12. MADHYA BHARAT	1. Basoda 2. Badnagar 3. Ratlam 4. Indore 5. Bhind	Bhilsa. Ujjain. Ratlam. Indore. Bhind.
13. MYSORE	Bangalore	Bangalore.
14. PEPSU	1. Barnala 2. Bhatinda 3. Patiala 4. Narnaul	Barnala. Bhatinda. Patiala. Mohindergarb.
15. RAJASTHAN	1. Kotah 2. Ganganagar 3. Chittorgarh 4. Bharatpur 5. Jodhpur 6. Tonk	Kotah. Ganganagar. Chittorgarh. Bharatpur. Jodhpur Tonk.
16. SAURASHTRA	1. Rajkot 2. Botad	Madhya Saurashtra. Gohilwad.
17. TRAVANCORE COCHIN	Trivandrum	Trivandrum.
18. AJMER	Ajmer	Ajmer.
19. BHOPAL	Bhopal	Bhopal.
20. DELHI	1. Delhi 2. Najafgarh	Delhi. ”
21. HIMACHAL PRADESH	1. Mandi 2. Chamba 3. Nahan	Mandi. Chamba. Sirmur.
22. KUTCH	Bhuj	Kutch.
23. VINDHYA PRADESH	1. Satna 2. Chhattarpur 3. Rewa 4. Datia	Satna. Chhattarpur. Rewa. Datia.
B A R L E Y		
1. BIHAR	1. Motihari 2. Muzaffarpur 3. Chapra.	Champaran. Muzaffarpur. Saran.
2. PUNJAB	1. Moga 2. Rewari 3. Sonapat	Ferozepore. Gurgaon. Rohtak.
3. UTTAR PRADESH	1. Sitapur 2. Hardoi 3. Gorakhpur 4. Chandausi 5. Hathras 6. Kanpur	Sitapur. Hardoi. Gorakhpur. Moradabad. Aligarh. Kanpur.

State	Centre	Distri ct
3. UTTAR PRADESH— <i>contd.</i>	7. Banaras 8. Bahraich 9. Hapur 10. Jaunpur	Banaras. Bahraich. Meerut. Jaunpur.
4. RAJASTHAN	1. Bharatpur 2. Alwar 3. Jaipur 4. Bundi 5. Bhilwara 6. Ganganagar	Bharatpur. Alwar. Jaipur. Bundi. Chittorgarh. Ganganagar.
5. PEPSU	1. Dadri 2. Bhatinda	Mahendargarh. Bhatinda.
6. AJMER	Ajmer	Ajmer.
7. VINDHYA PRADESH	Tikamgarh	Tikamgarh.
G R A M		
1. ANDHRA	Kurnool	Kurnool.
2. BIHAR	1. Lakhisarai 2. Arrah 3. Patna 4. Gaya	Monghyr. Shahabad. Patna. Gaya.
3. BOMBAY	1. Dohad 2. Malegaon 3. Gadag	Panch Mahals. Nasik. West Khandesh.
4. MADHYA PRADESH	1. Hoshangabad 2. Jabalpur 3. Sagar	Hoshangabad. Jabalpur. Sagar.
5. PUNJAB	1. Hansi 2. Rohtak 3. Abohar 4. Ambala 5. Tarantarn	Hissar. Rohtak. Ferozepore. Ambala. Amritsar.
6. UTTAR PRADESH	1. Hapur 2. Gorakhpur 3. Banda 4. Kalpi 5. Kanpur 6. Hathras 7. Bahraich 8. Hardoi 9. Jhansi 10. Allahabad 11. Barabanki 12. Mathura 13. Maudaha	Meerut. Gorakhpur. Banda. Jalaun. Kanpur. Aligarh. Bahraich. Hardoi. Jhansi. Allahabad. Barabanki. Mathura. Hamirpur.
7. WEST BENGAL	1. Calcutta 2. Jiaganj 3. Sainthia	Calcutta. Murshidabad. Birbhum.

State	Centre	District
8. HYDERABAD	1. Gulbarga 2. Aurangabad	Gulbarga. Aurangabad.
9. MADHYA BHARAT	1. Morena 2. Bhind 3. Khargone 4. Ratlam	Morena. Bhind. Nimar. Ratlam.
10. PEPSU	1. Sunam 2. Barnala 3. Kotkapura 4. Patiala	Sangrur. Barnala. Bhatinda. Patiala.
11. RAJASTHAN	1. Bharatpur 2. Ganganagar 3. Alwar 4. Jaipur	Bharatpur. Ganganagar. Alwar. Jaipur.
12. BHOPAL	Schore	Bhopal.
13. DELHI	Delhi	Delhi.
14. VINDHYA PRADESH	Datia	Datia.

B.—Commodities other than Cereals and Gram

State	Centre	State	Centre
1. PULSES OTHER THAN GRAM		1. PULSES OTHER THAN GRAM—contd.	
Andhra	Vizianagaram. Vijayawada.	Pepsu	Bhatinda.
Assam	Gauhati.	Rajasthan	Hindaun.
Bihar	Patna. Nagauchia. Chapra.	Delhi	Delhi.
Bombay	Patan. Bombay.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi.
Madhya Pradesh	Saugor Raipur. Dhamangaon.	Vindhya Pradesh	Rewa.
Madras	Madras. Virudhunagar.	2. PULSES SPLIT	
Orissa	Angul.	Bihar	Patna.
Punjab	Batala. Hissar.	Bombay	Bombay.
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur. Hapur, Bahraich.	Madhya Pradesh	Saugor. Nagpur.
West Bengal	Calcutta. Sainthia.	Madras	Madras. Coimbatore.
Hyderabad	Gulbarga. Aurangabad.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur.
Madhya Bharat	Morena.	West Bengal	Calcutta.
Mysore	Bangalore.	PEPSU	Bhatinda.
		Delhi	Delhi.
		3. GROUNDNUT	
		Andhra	Nandyal. Vijayawada.
		Bombay	Bombay. Sholapur.
		Madhya Pradesh	Khamgaon. Khandwa.
		Madras	Madras. Cuddalore.

State	Centre
3. GROUNDNUT— <i>contd.</i>	
Uttar Pradesh	. Madho Ganj.
Hyderabad	. Warangal. Hyderabad.
Madhya Bharat	. Khargone.
Mysore	. Devangre.
Rajasthan	. Gangapur. Bhawani Mandi.
Saurashtra	. Rajkot.

State	Centre
4. GROUNDNUT OIL	
Andhra	. Nandyal.
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh	. Akola
Madras	. Madras.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur.
Hyderabad	. Hyderabad.
Saurashtra	. Rajkot.

State	Centre
5 GROUNDNUT CAKE	
Andhra	. Nandyal.
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh	. Akola.
Madras	. Madras.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur.
Hyderabad	. Hyderabad.
Saurashtra	. Rajkot.

State	Centre
6. RAPE AND MUSTARD	
Assam	. Gauhati.
Bihar	. Purnea.
Bombay	. Bombay.
Punjab	. Palwal.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur. Chandausi.
West Bengal	. Calcutta. Dhubguri.
Rajasthan	. Bharatpur.
Delhi	. Delhi.

State	Centre
7. MUSTARD OIL	
Assam	. Gauhati.
Punjab	. Moga.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur.
West Bengal	. Calcutta.
Delhi	. Delhi.

State	Centre
8. MUSTARD OIL-CAKE	
Assam	. Gauhati.
Punjab	. Moga.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur.
West Bengal	. Calcutta.
Delhi	. Delhi.

State	Centre
9. SESAMUM	
Andhra	. Rajahmundry.
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh	. Chanda.
Madras	. Madras.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur. Jhansi.
Orissa	. Angul.
Hyderabad	. Warangal. Hyderabad.
Madhya Bharat	. Morena.
10. SESAMUM OIL	
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madras	. Madras.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur.
Hyderabad	. Hyderabad.
11. SESAMUM CAKE	
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madras	. Madras.
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur.
Hyderabad	. Hyderabad.
12. LINSEED	
Bihar	. Sahibganj.
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh	. Sagar (Bombay hold) Raipur (Calcutta small)
Uttar Pradesh	. Kanpur. Gonda.
West Bengal	. Calcutta.
Hyderabad	. Gulbarga.
Vindhya Pradesh	. Satna.
13. LINSEED OIL	
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh	. Nagpur.
West Bengal	. Calcutta.
Hyderabad	. Hyderabad.
14. LINSEED CAKE	
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh	. Nagpur.
West Bengal	. Calcutta.
Hyderabad	. Hyderabad.
15. COPRA	
Andhra	. Rajahmundry.
Bombay	. Bombay.
Madras	. Calicut. Mangalore.
West Bengal	. Calcutta.
Mysore	. Tiptur.
Travancore-Cochin	. Alleppey. Changanchery.

State	Centre	State	Centre
16. COCONUT OIL			
Andhra	Rajahmundry.	Andhra	Vizianagaram.
Bombay	Bombay.	Bombay	Bombay.
Madras	Madras.	25. COTTON SEED	
	Calicut.	Bombay	Dhulia.
West Bengal	Calcutta.		Bombay.
Travancore-Cochin	Cochin.		Hubli.
17. COCONUT OIL-CAKE			
Andhra	Rajahmundry.	Madhya Pradesh	Amraoti.
Bombay	Bombay.		Akola.
Madras	Mangalore.	Madras	Tiruppur.
	Calicut.	Punjab	Abohar.
West Bengal	Calcutta.	Hyderabad	Nanded.
Travancore-Cochin	Cochin.	26. COTTON SEED OIL	
18. CASTOR SEED			
Bombay	Bombay.	Bombay	Hubli.
Madras	Madras.	Punjab	Khanna.
Hyderabad	Bhongir.	27. RAW COTTON	
	Jadcherla.	Andhra	Adoni.
Mysore	Chitaldurg.	Bombay	Bombay.
19. CASTOR OIL			
			Dhulia.
Bombay	Bombay.		Broach.
Madras	Madras.		Hubli.
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur.	Madhya Pradesh	Amraoti.
Hyderabad	Hyderabad.		Akola.
20. CASTOR CAKE			
Bombay	Bombay.	Madras	Madras.
Madras	Salem.		Tiruppur.
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur.		Coimbatore.
Hyderabad	Hyderabad.	Punjab	Abohar.
21. MAHUA SEED			
Bombay	Bombay.		Fazilka.
West Bengal	Calcutta.		Hansi.
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur.	Uttar Pradesh	Hathras.
22. MAHUA OIL			
Bombay	Bombay.	Hyderabad	Raichur.
West Bengal	Calcutta.		Nanded.
23. KARDI SEED			
Bombay	Bombay.	Madhya Bharat	Indore.
Madhya Pradesh	Malkapur.	Mysore	Devangre.
Hyderabad	Jalna.	PEPSU	Bhatinda.
24. NIGER SEED			
		Rajasthan	Ganganagar.
			Gulabpura.
		Saurashtra	Surendarnagar.
		28. RAW JUTE	
		Assam	Nowgong.
		Bihar	Purnea.
			Forbesganj.
		Orissa	Danpur.
			Kendupatna.
		West Bengal	Calcutta.
			Kashimbazar.
			Raiganj.
			Belakoba.
			Dhubguri.
		Tripura	Agartala.

State	Centre	State	Centre
29. MESTA		34. GUR— <i>contd.</i>	
Andhra . . .	Vizianagaram. Amudalavalasa.	Hyderabad . . .	Nizamabad.
Bihar	Purnea.	Madhya Bharat . . .	Indore. Dabra.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.	PEPSU	Patiala.
Hyderabad . . .	Sadasivapet.	Saurashtra	Rajkot.
30. SANN HEMP		Delhi	Delhi.
Andhra	Guntur.	35. KHANDSARI	
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Banaras.	Uttar Pradesh . . .	Bareilly. Kanpur. Ballia.
31. COIR		Delhi	Delhi.
Bombay	Honavar.	36. PALM GUR	
Madras	Calicut.	Andhra	Cuddapah. Kakinada.
Travancore-Cochin .	Cochin.	Bombay	Ahmednagar.
32. AGAVE		Madras	Madras. Tuticorin.
Bombay	Srigonda.	West Bengal	Joynagar.
33. SUGAR		Travancore-Cochin .	Quilon.
Andhra	Samarlakota.	37. BLACK PEPPER	
Bihar	Patna, Motihari.	Madras	Madras. Calicut.
Bombay	Bombay. Kopergaon.	Travancore-Cochin .	Alleppey. Cochin.
Madhya Pradesh . .	Nagpur.	Bombay	Bombay. Haveri.
Madras	Nellikuppam. Madras.	Mysore	Shimoga.
Punjab	Jullundur.	Coorg	Mercara.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur. Hapur. Muzaffarnagar.	38. CHILLIES	
West Bengal	Calcutta.	Andhra	Guntur.
Hyderabad	Hyderabad.	Bihar	Patna City Samastipur.
Delhi	Delhi,	Bombay	Bombay.
34. GUR		Madhya Pradesh . .	Malkapur.
Andhra	Anakapalle. Chittoor.	Madras	Virudhunagar.
Bihar	Patna. Gaya.	Punjab	Panipat.
Bombay	Bombay. Kolhapur. Ahmednagar.	Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur.
Madhya Pradesh . .	Nagpur.	Hyderabad	Nizamabad.
Madras	Coimbatore. Madras.	Mysore	Mysore.
Orissa	Cuttack.	PEPSU	Patiala.
Punjab	Jullundur. Ambala.	Rajasthan	Chittorgarh.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur. Hapur. Muzaffarnagar.	Delhi	Delhi.
West Bengal	Calcutta.	39. GARLIC	
		Madras	Dindigul.
		Hyderabad	Hyderabad.
		Saurashtra	Jamnagar.

State	Centre	State	Centre
40. GINGER		47. TAMARIND	
Bombay . . .	Bombay.	Madras . . .	Madras.
Madras . . .	Calicut.	Hyderabad . . .	Shadnagar.
Punjab . . .	Chuharpur.	48. CLOVES	
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur.	Bombay . . .	Bombay.
West Bengal . . .	Darjeeling.	Madras . . .	Madras.
Hyderabad . . .	Hyderabad.	West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
Travancore-Cochin . . .	Alleppey. Cochin.	49. LEMONGRASS OIL	
Himachal Pradesh . . .	Nahan.	Madras . . .	Madras.
41. TURMERIC		Travancore-Cochin . . .	Cochin.
Andhra . . .	Duggirala. Cuddapah.	50. POTATOES	
Bombay . . .	Sangli.	Assam . . .	Shillong.
Madras . . .	Madras. Erode.	Bihar . . .	Patna City.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.	Bombay . . .	Bombay. Deesa.
Hyderabad . . .	Nizamabad.	Madhya Pradesh . . .	Nagpur.
Travancore-Cochin . . .	Cochin.	Madras . . .	Mettupala am.
Delhi . . .	Delhi.	Punjab . . .	Simla (Hill potatoes) Karnal (Plain pota- toes).
42. CORIANDER		Uttar Pradesh . . .	Farukhabad. Meerut.
Madras . . .	Tiruchirapalli.	West Bengal . . .	Calcutta. Darjeeling.
Hyderabad . . .	Vicarabad.	Himachal Pradesh . . .	Mandi.
Madhya Bharat . . .	Guna.	Delhi . . .	Delhi.
Rajasthan . . .	Ramgunj Mandi.	51. SEED POTATOES	
43. CUMIN SEED		Bihar . . .	Patna City.
Bombay . . .	Nadiad.	Uttar Pradesh . . .	Haldwani.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Agra.	West Bengal . . .	Darjeeling.
Rajasthan . . .	Alwar. Niwai.	Himachal Pradesh . . .	Mandi.
44. AJWAIN		52. ONION	
Hyderabad . . .	Vicarabad.	(Small and big)	
45. CARDAMOM		Andhra (small) . . .	Cuddapah. Rajahmundry.
Assam . . .	Shillong (small).	Bihar (big) . . .	Patna City. Jamui (Monghyr).
Madras . . .	Virudhunagar (big). Bodinayakur (big). Mangalore (big).	Bombay (big) . . .	Bombay. Lasalgaon. Nasik.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta (big and small). Darjeeling (big).	Madras (small) . . .	Madras. Dindigul.
Coorg . . .	Mercara (big).	Punjab (big) . . .	Karnal.
46. ARECANUTS		Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur.
Assam . . .	Shillong.	West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
Bombay . . .	Sirsi.	Hyderabad (small) . . .	Hyderabad.
Madras . . .	Mangalore. Palghat. Madras.	Saurashtra (big) . . .	Verawal. Jamnagar.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.	Delhi . . .	Delhi.
Mysore . . .	Shimoga.		
Travancore-Cochin . . .	Palai. Alleppey.		
Delhi . . .	Delhi.		

State	Centre
53. BANANAS	
Andhra . . .	Rajahmundry.
Bombay . . .	Jalgaon. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh . . .	Nagpur.
Madras . . .	Kodaikanal.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
Travancore-Cochin.	Punalur.

State	Centre
54. MANGOES	
Andhra . . .	Vizianagaram. Chittoor
Bihar . . .	Darbhanga.
Bombay . . .	Ratnagiri.
Punjab . . .	Hoshiarpur.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Banaras.

State	Centre
55. SWEET POTATOES	
Assam . . .	Jorhat.
Madhya Pradesh . . .	Nagpur.
Madras . . .	Mangalore.
Travancore-Cochin . . .	Trivandrum.

State	Centre
56. TAPIOCA	
Madras . . .	Calicut.
Travancore-Cochin.	Nedumangad.

State	Centre
57. ALMONDS	
Bombay . . .	Bombay.
Punjab . . .	Amritsar.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur.
Delhi . . .	Delhi.

State	Centre
58. WALNUTS	
Bombay . . .	Bombay.
Punjab . . .	Amritsar. Pathankot.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur.
Delhi . . .	Delhi.

State	Centre
59. CASHEW NUTS	
Andhra . . .	Vetapalem.
Bombay . . .	Malwan.
Madras . . .	Calicut.
Travancore-Cochin . . .	Quilon. Cochin.
Delhi . . .	Delhi.

State	Centre
60. COCONUTS	
Andhra . . .	Rajahmundry.
Bombay . . .	Ratnagiri.

State	Centre
60. COCONUTS— <i>contd.</i>	
Madras . . .	Calicut.
Orissa . . .	Sakhigopal.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
Mysore . . .	Tiptur.
Travancore-Cochin . . .	Alleppey. Cochin.

State	Centre
61. MILK	
Bihar . . .	Patna.
Bombay . . .	Bombay.
Madras . . .	Madras.
Punjab . . .	Amritsar.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Kanpur.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
Mysore . . .	Bangalore.
Delhi . . .	Delhi.

State	Centre
62. BUTTER	
Bombay . . .	Anand. Bombay.
Punjab . . .	Dinapore.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.

State	Centre
63. GHEE	
Andhra . . .	Guntur.
Bihar . . .	Khagaria. Darbhanga.
Bombay . . .	Bombay.
Madras . . .	Madras.
Punjab . . .	Kaithal.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Khurja. Shikohabad.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
Madhya Bharat . . .	Morena.
Rajasthan . . .	Churu.
Saurashtra . . .	Porbandar.
Delhi . . .	Delhi.
Himachal Pradesh . . .	Nahan.
Kutch . . .	Bhuj.

State	Centre
64. HIDES AND SKINS	
Bombay . . .	Bombay.
Madras . . .	Madras.
Punjab . . .	Jullundur
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Agra. Kanpur.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.

State	Centre
65. WOOL	
Bombay . . .	Bombay.
Punjab . . .	Fazilka.

State	Centre
65. WOOL— <i>contd.</i>	
West Bengal . . .	Kalimpong. Calcutta.
Hyderabad . . .	Mahboobnagar.
Madhya Bharat . . .	Dabra.
Mysore . . .	Bangalore.
Rajasthan . . .	Jodhpur.
Saurashtra . . .	Jamnagar.
Ajmer . . .	Beawar.

66. TOBACCO

Andhra . . .	Guntur.
Bihar . . .	Pusa.
Bombay . . .	Anand. Bombay.
Madhya Pradesh . . .	Gondia. Nagpur.
Madras . . .	Erode.
Punjab . . .	Jullundur.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta. Cooch Behar.
Hyderabad . . .	Warangal.
Mysore . . .	Bangalore.

67. KENDU LEAF

Orissa . . .	Sambalpur.
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68. SHELLAC

West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
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69. SEED LAC

Bihar . . .	Jhalda.
Madhya Pradesh . . .	Gondia.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.

70. STICK LAC

Bihar . . .	Ranchi. Jhalda.
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State	Centre
70. STICK LAC— <i>contd.</i>	
Madhya Pradesh . . .	Gondia.
Orissa . . .	Keonjhar.
Uttar Pradesh . . .	Mirzapur.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.

71. TEA

Madras . . .	Coimbatore.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta. Darjeeling.

72. COFFEE

Madras . . .	Mangalore. Coimbatore.
Mysore . . .	Bangalore. Chickmagalur.

73. RUBBER

Bombay . . .	Bombay.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.
Travancore-Cochin	Kottayam.

74. WATTLE BARK

Madras . . .	Madras.
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75. TURPENTINE

Punjab . . .	Hoshiarpur.
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76. ROSIN

Punjab . . .	Hoshiarpur.
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77. MYROBALANS

Bihar . . .	Palamau.
Bombay . . .	Khanapur.
Madhya Pradesh . . .	Jagdalpur.
West Bengal . . .	Calcutta.

APPENDIX XII

STATE-WISE AND CEREAL-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF CENTRES PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ECONOMIC ADVISER, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Total No. of Centres—99.

State/Centre	Rice	Jowar	Bajra	Maize	Ragi	Wheat	Barley	Total
Andhra	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	6
Assam	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bihar	5	..	..	1	..	1	1	8
Bombay	3	3	1	1	1	2	..	11
Madhya Pradesh	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	6
Madras	4	1	1	..	1	1	..	8
Orissa	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Punjab	1	1	1	1	..	2	1	7
Uttar Pradesh	4	1	1	2	..	4	2	14
West Bengal	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	7
Hyderabad	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	3
Madhya Bharat . . . . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mysore	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	3
PEPSU . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Rajasthan . . . . .	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	5
Saurashtra . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Travancore-Cochin	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ajmer . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bhopal . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Coorg	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Delhi . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Himachal Pradesh . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Kutch . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manipur	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tripura	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Vindhya Pradesh	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
TOTAL	43	14	8	7	4	18	5	99

APPENDIX XIII

LIST OF CENTRES PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE INDEX NUMBER:
OF WHOLESALE PRICES ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE ECONOMIC
ADVISER, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

1. RICE

- (i) *Andhra*—
Kakinada (East Godavari).
Nellore.
Vijayawada (Krishna).
- (ii) *Assam*—
Haikandi (Cachar).
Tihu (Kamrup).
Badati (Lakhimpur).
- (iii) *Bihar*—
Jayanagar (Darbhanga).
Gaya.
Ranchi.
Dumka (Santhal Parganas).
Jamshedpur (Singhbhum).
- (iv) *Bombay*—
Kalyan (Thana).
Chiplun (Ratnagiri).
Nandgarh (Belgaum).
- (v) *Madhya Pradesh*—
Nagpur.
Raipur.
Jagdarpur (Bastar).
- (vi) *Madras*—
Kumbakonam (Tanjore).
Madras.
Calicut (Malabar).
Tirunelveli.
- (vii) *Orissa*—
Balasore.
*Sambalpur.
*Jeypore (Koraput).
Cuttack.
- (viii) *Punjab*—
Karnal.
- (ix) *Uttar Pradesh*—
Nowgarh (Basti).
Kanpur.
Saharanpur.
Banaras.

1. RICE—contd.

- (x) *West Bengal*—
*Sainthia (Birbhum).
Balurghat (West Dinajpur).
*Matiahat (24 Parganas).
Calcutta.
Contai (Midnapur).
Cooch Behar.
- (xi) *Hyderabad*—
Nizamabad.
- (xii) *Mysore*—
Shimoga.
- (xiii) *Travancore-Cochin*.
Trivandrum.
- (xiv) *Coorg*—
Mercara.
- (xv) *Manipur*—
Imphal.
- (xvi) *Tripura*—
Agartala.
- (xvii) *Vindhya Pradesh*—
Kotma.

2. JOWAR

- (i) *Andhra*—
Nandyal (Kurnool).
 - (ii) *Bombay*—
Hubli (Dharwar).
Mohol (Sholapur).
Surat.
 - (iii) *Madhya Pradesh*—
Akola.
Nagpur.
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2. JOWAR—*contd.*

- (iv) Madras—
Coimbatore.
- (v) Punjab—
Rohtak.
- (vi) Uttar Pradesh—
Jhansi.
- (vii) Hyderabad—
Hyderabad.
Gulbarga.
- (viii) Madhya Bharat—
Ujjain.
- (ix) Mysore—
Hospet (Bellary).
- (x) Rajasthan—
Jhalawar.

3. BAJRA

- (i) Andhra—
Visakhapatnam.
- (ii) Bombay—
Ahmednagar.
- (iii) Madras—
Coimbatore.
- (iv) Punjab—
Hissar.
- (v) Uttar Pradesh—
Agra.
- (vi) PEPHU—
Barnala.
- (vii) Rajasthan—
Jodhpur.
- (viii) Saurashtra—
Rajkot (Madhya Saurashtra).

4. MAIZE

- (i) Bihar—
*Nagauchia (Bhagalpur).
- (ii) Bombay—
*Dohad (Panch Mahals).
- (iii) Punjab—
Ludhiana.
- (iv) Uttar Pradesh—
Bahraich.
Chandausi (Moradabad).
- (v) Rajasthan—
Bhilwara.
- (vi) Himachal Pradesh—
*Mandi.

5. RAGI

- (i) Andhra—
*Madanapalle (Chittoor).
- (ii) Bombay—
*Ghoti (Nasik).
- (iii) Madras—
*Salem.
- (iv) Mysore—
Bangalore.

6. WHEAT

- (i) Bihar—
Khagaria (Monghyr).
- (ii) Bombay—
Dhanduka (Ahmedabad).
Bombay.
- (iii) Madhya Pradesh—
Sagar.
- (iv) Madras—
Madras.
- (v) Punjab—
Moga (Ferozepur).
Abohar (Ferozepur).
- (vi) Uttar Pradesh—
Hapur (Meerut).
Kanpur.
Chandausi (Moradabad).
Bahraich.
- (vii) West Bengal—
Calcutta.
- (viii) PEPHU—
Barnala.
- (ix) Rajasthan—
Kotah.
- (x) Saurashtra—
Rajkot (Madhya Saurashtra).
- (xi) Bhopal—
Bhopal
- (xii) Delhi—
Delhi.
- (xiii) Vindhya Pradesh—
Rewa.

7. BARLEY

- (i) Bihar—
Motihari (Champaran).
- (ii) Punjab—
Moga (Ferozepur).
- (iii) Uttar Pradesh—
Jaunpur.
Hapur (Meerut).
- (iv) Rajasthan—
Jaipur.

* For these centres wholesale prices for the commodity concerned are not readily available (also *vide* Appendix XIV).

APPENDIX XIV

LIST OF CENTRES PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE ECONOMIC ADVISER'S INDEX IN RESPECT OF WHICH WHOLESALE PRICES DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE, AND THOSE PROPOSED TO BE SUBSTITUTED.

Cereal	Centre proposed for inclusion in E.A.'s Index	Centre proposed to be substituted
1	2	3
RICE	Jeypore	Russelkonda.
	Sambalpur	Bargarh.
	Sainthia	Suri.
	Matiahat	Canning Town.
	Agartala	Patharkandi.
MAIZE	Nagauchia	Monghyr.
	Mandi	Chamba.
	Dohad	Limkheda.
RAGI	Salem	Kanchipuram.
	Madanapalle	Chittoor.
	Ghoti	Peint.