

Shri Hukam Chand

Kachhavaitya:

Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten persons including eight women lost their lives, when a motor launch sank after colliding with the Navy ship 'Betwa' about one mile off the Bombay harbour on the 10th May, 1964;

(b) whether any enquiry has been held in the matter; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir. M. L. "Sultani" collided with I. N. S. "Betwa" on the 10th May, 1964. According to the police records, 10 persons i.e., 9 passengers (4 Males and 5 Females) and 1 crew are dead or missing.

(b) and (c). A preliminary inquiry into this casualty by the Mercantile Marine Department, Bombay, is in progress.

Price of Wheat

*104 { Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Daji:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Yamuna Prasad
Mandal:
Shri N. P. Yadab:
Shrimati Akkamma Devi:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

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

(a) whether Government have informed the wheat producing States that while the floor price of wheat has been fixed at Rs. 14 per maund, it is not intended to stabilise wheat price at this level;

(b) whether the Central Government is ready to encourage limited State Trading in wheat; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to ensure that the dealers sell wheat at not more than the maximum price, to be announced later on?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government of India will have no objection to a State Government purchasing wheat during the post-harvest period for distribution within the State or, if the quantity purchased is found surplus to the needs of that State, for supply to deficit States subject to the concurrence of the Central Government being taken and prices being suitable.

(c) The question of fixing maximum prices and its enforcement are under consideration.

Shortfall in Milk Supply

Shri Heda:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Shivaji Rao S.
Deshmukh:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Yamuna Prasad
Mandal:
*105. { Shri N. P. Yadab:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Y. D. Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaitya:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:

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

(a) the reasons for the shortfall in the supply of milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) whether this shortfall was not foreseen;

(c) if so, the steps taken to build up additional sources of supply of milk; and

(d) when Government expect to supply milk to an adequate extent?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A.