

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.

M. Thomas: (a) There is a short-fall in procurement of buffalo milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme. Every year, there is a seasonal fall from winter to summer but this year there has been a sharp fall in procurement mainly due to excessive diversion by the contractors from supply to the Delhi Milk Scheme to private dealers and manufacturers of milk products who offered a price higher than the price offered by the Delhi Milk Scheme.

(b) That there will be short-fall was anticipated. But the extraordinary extent of the fall this year was not foreseen.

(c) Steps were taken to develop additional sources of supply in Bulandshahr and Gurgaon districts, but this alone could not meet the deficit.

(d) With the imposition of ban on import of Khoa, Paneer, condensed milk, etc. into Delhi with effect from 22-5-64, some quantity of milk which was being diverted for manufacture of those products has become available for liquid consumption. The procurement of buffalo milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme has since improved and the existing commitment on the basis of cards valid from 13-5-64 is expected to be met. The supply may be expected to become adequate only with the onset of monsoons.

Sugar Production

*106. { **Shri Daljit Singh:**
 { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**

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

(a) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of sugar during the next year;

(b) whether the Indian Sugar Mills' Associations have given some suggestions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a). The area under cane and the condition of the crop so far indicates that next year the cane availability would be larger than in the current year. Government have already announced the minimum price of cane and the measures for keeping prices of competing articles in check are already in force. Other steps would be considered nearer the time the crushing season begins.

(b) and (c). The Indian Sugar Mills Association has suggested—

(i) fixation of minimum cane price for sugar factories in Northern and Central Zones at Rs. 2 per maund within the framework of the price linking formula already in operation;

(ii) adoption of a policy of selective control under which sugar factories should be allowed to sell in the free market their excess production over their basic quotas, to be fixed by Government;

(iii) effective regulation of gur and khandsari manufacture in factory areas;

(iv) fixation of sugar prices in different regions and sub-regions at economic levels; and

(v) demarcation of cane zones for individual sugar factories in all States to ensure adequate cane supplies to all existing factories.

Modernisation of Sugar Factories

*107. **Shri D. D. Puri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee set up to investigate into the needs of the sugar factories for the rehabilitation and modernisation has completed its work and submitted its report;