

ber, 1965 to exchange not only all the ships held by each country, but also all other vessels, cargoes and crew. Recently, the same offer has also been made direct to the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels, but there has been no response so far.

Mid-term Elections in Kerala

*701. **Shri Himatsingka:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press report in which the Governor of Kerala has stated that Kerala will have mid-term elections soon;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and

(d) if so, when the mid-term elections are likely to be held?

The Minister of Law and Social Security (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen some press reports regarding the views of the Governor of Kerala on the prospects of mid-term elections in Kerala.

(b) to (d). It is too early to come to any decision; but the political situation in the State is under close and constant review with a view to exploring the possibility of installing an elected Government as soon as conditions permit.

Agricultural Production Board

*702. **Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently functions of the Agricultural Production Board have been enlarged; and

(b) if so, the precise functions and in what way these are likely to accelerate the country's drive for self-sufficiency in food production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The functions of the Agricultural Production Board as such have not been enlarged but it has been decided that the Board should function more effectively as a decision making body. The main function of the Board is to secure effective and continuous co-ordination between the concerned Ministries and Departments at the Centre and between the Centre and the States in matters relating to formulation and execution of agricultural development programmes. It is hoped this would cut out delays and help in speedy implementation of the programmes.

Off-loading of Pak. Cargo

*703. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to off-load Pakistani cargo aboard the Italian ship, 'Adige' in compliance with the demand of the All-India Port and Dock Workers' Federation who have been on a boycott for over a month;

(b) if so, the value of the cargo; and

(c) whether in view of Pakistan's continued intransigence to release Indian ships and cargo impounded by Pakistan, Government have decided to off-load the rest of the Pakistani cargo seized by India?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (c). The Italian ship m.v. 'Adige' of Messrs. Lloyd Triestino arrived in Bombay on the 16th October, 1965 with 1,723 tons of cargo for Indian ports and 3,678 tons of cargo for Pakistani ports of Karachi, Chittagong and Chalna. In order to safeguard Indian cargoes, Government of India was giving assurances to neutral ships to come to an Indian port first to discharge our cargoes and then proceed to Pakistan. If this procedure was followed, we had agreed not to off-load Pakistan cargoes. An