

(c) The excise duty on furnace oil was reduced from Rs. 71.70 to Rs. 40.11 per tonne with effect from 15th January, 1966 and to Rs. 5.23 per tonne with effect from 26th August, 1966. The points raised in the representations are under examination.

सहकारी समितियों के सम्बन्ध में एकरूप विधान

* 432. श्री विभूति मिश्र :

श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

क्या साख, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सहकारी समितियों के सम्बन्ध में समूचे देश में एकरूप विधान पेश करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार का इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है और कब तक ?

साख, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री श्यामधर मिश्र) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

River Steam Navigation Company

* 433. Shri Hem Barua:

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the River Steam Navigation Company plying their boats in the Brahmaputra have decided to stop their services; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). The river services provided by the Rivers Steam Navigation Company Limited on the Calcutta-Assam route have been suspended since September, 1965 on account of the hostilities with Pakistan. As regards its other activities, the future of the Company is under Government's consideration.

Import of Foodgrains from U.S.A.

* 434. Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Shri Hem Raj:

Shri P. Kunhan:

Shri Imbichibava:

Shri M. N. Swamy:

Shri Maheswar Nalk:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the P.L. 480 agreement for import of foodgrains from U.S.A. will be replaced by the new 'Food for Peace' legislation enacted in that country;

(b) whether the said legislation prohibits any food shipments to nations trading with North Vietnam or Cuba; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction to the implied restrictions on India's sovereign trading rights?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) At present the Food for Peace Programme of the U.S.A. is being implemented through the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 of U.S.A., also called Public Law 480. This Act has been amended by the "Food for Peace Act 1966".

(b) This legislation denies PL-480 sales agreements with countries which are covered by the following clause in that legislation:

"For the purpose only of sales of agricultural commodities

under Title I of the Act, any nation which sells or furnishes or permits ships or aircraft under its registry to transport to or from Cuba or North Vietnam (excluding United States installations in Cuba) any equipment, materials or commodities so long as they are governed by a communist regime: Provided, that with respect to furnishing, selling, or selling and transporting to Cuba medical supplies, non-strategic agricultural or food commodities, sales agreements may be entered into if the President finds, with respect to each such country, and so informs the Senate and the House of Representatives of the reasons therefor, that the making of each such agreement would be in the national interest of the United States and all such findings and reasons therefor shall be published in the Federal Register."

(c) We are not called upon to express any reaction until and unless an actual abridgement of our right is threatened. We maintain our sovereign rights to trade with any State.

Numerals on Car Plates

*435. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the country, the International form of Indian numerals as defined in Article 343 of the Constitution, is not used on number plates of motor vehicles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a practice has created difficulties for traffic police; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri

Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (d). Generally the International form of Indian numerals as defined in Article 343 of the Constitution is used on number plates of motor vehicles. There are a few cases, however, where individuals have displayed numerals on number plates of motor vehicles in the Devanagari form. This practice however is not wide-spread and may create difficulties for the traffic police only in such areas where traffic police have not yet acquired adequate knowledge of Hindi. The matter has been brought to the notice of the State Governments.

सुपर बाजार

*436. **श्री मधु सिमये :** क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि देश में अब तक खोले गये सुपर बाजारों का लाभ उठाने वाले उपभोक्ताओं की मासिक औसत संख्या कितनी है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री इयामधर सिन्ध) : बहु-विभागी भण्डारों (सुपर बाजारों) ने सक्रिय मूल्य नीति अपना कर सामान्य मूल्य स्तर पर प्रभाव डाला है। इस तरह उन नगरों में रहने वाले सभी उपभोक्ताओं को लाभ पहुंचा है, जिनमें बहु-विभागी भण्डार काम कर रहे हैं। जिन उपभोक्ताओं ने बहु-विभागी भण्डारों से वस्तुएं खरीदी हैं, उनकी पूरी-पूरी संख्या बताना सम्भव नहीं है, किन्तु रोजाना जारी किए गए कैश-मीमों की औसत संख्या से उन ग्राहकों का आभास मिल जाएगा जिन्हें सीधे वस्तुएं बेची गई हैं। 12 बहु-विभागी भण्डारों द्वारा जारी किए गए कैश-मीमों की प्रतिदिन की औसत संख्या निम्नलिखित है। सात और बहु-विभागी भण्डारों के बारे में जानकारी तुरन्त उपलब्ध नहीं है।