

The Minister of Law (Shri G. S. Pathak): (a) to (c). No final decision in regard to the affording of broadcasting facilities to political parties is in the offing: the reason is the absence of any agreement among the political parties who were invited by the Election Commission on August 20, 1966. No further moves are being made in this connection.

Food Distribution in Bihar

***563. Shri Firodia:
Shri D. C. Sharma:**

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

(a) whether Government have deputed any senior officials to streamline and supervise the food distribution in Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the number of officials deputed so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) to (c). The State Government have taken steps to reorganize their administrative machinery with a view to improve the supervision of distribution of the large quantities of foodgrains that will have to be made during the coming months. A Regional Planning Adviser is being appointed with Headquarters at Patna and this officer will advise Bihar Government on food distribution also.

आसाम से पाकिस्तान में चोरी छिपे चावल का ले जाया जाना

*** 564. श्री यु० द० सिंह:
श्री मुकम खन्व कछवाय:
श्री काशी राम गुप्त:**

क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान लखनऊ से प्रकाशित होने वाले हिन्दी दैनिक समाचार

पत्र "तरुण भारत" दिनांक 27 सितम्बर, 1966 में प्रकाशित हुए उन समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें कहा गया है कि प्रति दिन लगभग 2000 मन चावल चोरी छिपे आसाम से पाकिस्तान में ले जाया जा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है; और

(ग) इस वर्ष में अब तक इस सम्बन्ध में कितने व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार किये गये हैं?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री गोविन्द मेनन): (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) तस्कर व्यापार विरोधी उपाय कड़े कर दिये गये हैं।

(ग) अब तक वास्तव में किसी तस्कर व्यापार करने का पता नहीं लगा है और न ही कोई व्यक्ति पकड़ा गया है।

River Steam Navigation Co.

***565. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 57 on the 1st November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether liquidation proceedings have been instituted against the River Steam Navigation Company Ltd.;

(b) if so, the extent of liabilities on the basis of which liquidation has been sought;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the company's creditors not to press for full payment of the debts; and

(d) if so, the general response of the creditors?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). One of the creditors of the River Steam

Navigation Company Ltd. has filed an application before the Calcutta High Court for the winding up of the Company. The Rivers Steam Navigation Company Ltd. owes a sum of about Rs. 8 lakhs to this creditor.

(c) and (d). The Chairman of the Rivers Steam Navigation Company Limited has conducted negotiations with the creditors of the Company. His report is under Government's consideration.

M/s Duncan Startton and Co.

***566. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:**

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2286 on the 16th August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the inquiry/inspection/compelling the company to produce books/inspection of book of accounts of the foreign company concerned/prosecutions etc. involving Duncan Startton and Co. have since been completed;

(b) if so, the result of these various processes/actions; and

(c) whether the prosecutions have resulted in convictions?

The Minister of Law (Shri G. S. Pathak): (a) Inspection of the books of accounts of Duncan Startton and Company Limited has been completed but inspection of two other companies in Calcutta and of one foreign company having a place of business in India, could not be carried out on account of non-production of necessary books, documents, etc. Prosecutions are being launched against these companies and its officers. The Registrar of Companies, Bombay has also been instructed to launch prosecution against Duncan Startton and Company for contravention of the provisions of Section 295 of the Companies Act.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at present.

Participation of Communal Parties in General Elections

***567. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of allowing communal parties like the Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and Akalidal to participate in the next General Elections under their respective banners and communal nomenclatures; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in the matter?

The Minister of Law (Shri G. S. Pathak): (a) and (b). The question does not arise as there is at present no ban or restriction on these parties regarding participation in elections.

Paddy Cultivation

***568. Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Dr. M. M. Das:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:
Shri Madhu Limaye:**

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

(a) whether Government have collected data about current paddy cultivation from the rice producing States as to the percentage of areas cultivated and the estimated paddy crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the entire irrigated areas for paddy cultivation have been utilised;

(d) if not, the percentage of areas covered by paddy cultivation; and

(e) the extent by which the crop is likely to fall short of the target?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a), (b) and (e) Firm estimates of area and production of paddy in 1966-67 are expected to be available some time in