

under investigation by M/s Rendal, Palmer & Tritton, the Consulting Engineers to the Calcutta Port Commissioners and Mr. Posthuma, Deputy Director of the Port of Rotterdam. In addition, the Government of India have had the benefit of a Report on the subject by Professor Larras, a French Engineer.

(c) The places that have been surveyed are Geonkhali, the mouth of the Haldia, Jensen Sands outside the outer bars of the River Hooghly, and Kanika Sands due north of the mouth of the Dhamma River.

(d) No firm decision has yet been taken to set up a Port at Haldia. The question of selection of a site for the new Port is still under technical investigation.

(e) The Haldia region which is about 25 miles from the mouth of the River Hooghly is not exposed to cyclonic weather conditions. But the mouth of the River is exposed to atmospheric depressions.

(f) A chart is under preparation and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is available.

Foreign assistance for Indian Merchant Shipping

*432. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what is the source and quantum of foreign assistance offered to build up Indian Merchant Shipping; and

(b) how do Government propose to avail of this foreign assistance?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The only substantial foreign assistance for shipping which has actually materialised so far is the Yen line of credit from Japan. Out of a total credit of 18 billion Yen promised by the Government of Japan, an amount of 5 billion Yen has been earmarked

for shipping. Orders have been already placed in Japan for the building of one tanker and one cargo ship against this amount. The question of placing a few more orders to utilise the amount fully is under active consideration.

Import of Foodgrains from U.S.A.

*433. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee
Shri Muhammed Elias:

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

(a) whether a new agreement for the import of foodgrains has been signed with U.S.A. in September, 1958:

(b) if so, the quantity of foodgrain likely to be received this year under this agreement; and

(c) the terms of agreement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (c). An Agreement was signed on the 26th September, 1958 with the Government of U.S.A. for the supply of foodgrains. A copy of it is available in the Library of the Parliament.

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose such information about import programme.

Inland Water Transport Services in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh

*434. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1477 on the 23rd September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the scheme for resuming the inland water transport services formerly run by the Joint Steamer Companies in the Bihar and U.P. has since been finalized; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor.