

**culture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that physical verification of the forests of Andamans has not been done for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when Government propose to have the next physical verification of the Andamans forests?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) to (c). Physical verification of the forests in the Andamans has not been attempted. If the hon. Member is referring to verification of timber and stores, such verification has been carried out annually during the last 3 years to the extent possible.

#### Supply of Wheat to West Bengal

\*435. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government had sent huge quantity of wheat to West Bengal Government in November, 1959 at Rs. 15 per maund for distribution among the flood-stricken areas;

(b) whether this wheat was sold in the open market;

(c) whether this wheat was found to be unfit for human consumption;

(d) whether any enquiry was held; and

(e) if so, the finding of this enquiry?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) to (c). Government of India are supplying wheat to the West Bengal Government at Rs. 14 per maund for distribution in the districts through modified rationing and other forms of distribution.

No separate allotment for flood-stricken areas was made in November,

1959 and it is understood from the West Bengal Government that no wheat supplied by the Centre was either unfit for human consumption or sold in the open market.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

#### चीनी उत्पादन

\*४३६. श्री खुशबक्त राय : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५९-६० में गन्ना पेरने के मौसम में १० फरवरी तक देश में कितनी चीनी तैयार की गई; और

(ख) १ नवम्बर, १९५८ से १० फरवरी १९५९ तक कितनी चीनी तैयार हुई ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री प्र० म० यामस) : (क) १३.५३ लाख टन पहली नवम्बर, १९५९ से १५ फरवरी, १९६० तक ।

(ख) ११.१४ लाख टन—पहली नवम्बर, १९५८ से १५ फरवरी, १९५९ तक ।

#### Silting of Bhakra Reservoir

\*437. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Joint Board will be formed comprising of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab Governments to check the silting of the Bhakra reservoir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Yes. At a meeting held between the representatives of the Punjab Government and the Himachal Pradesh Administration on the 12th February, 1960, it was suggested that an inter-State Soil Conservation Co-ordination Board be set up.

(b) The membership of the Board has been proposed as follows:—

**Punjab:**

- (1) **Planning Commissioner—Chairman.**
- (2) **Secretary, Agriculture.**
- (3) **Chief Conservator of Forests.**
- (4) **Director of Agriculture.**

**Himachal Pradesh:**

- (1) **Development Commissioner—Vice-Chairman.**
- (2) **Chief Conservator of Forests.**
- (3) **Director of Agriculture.**

**Bhakra Dam:**

The General Manager, Bhakra Dam and after the discontinuance of the post of the General Manager, a representative of the Bhakra Dam organisation.

The Board would plan and review soil conservation activities and programmes of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in the catchments of rivers Sutlej and Beas. The catchment area of river Ravi is proposed to be kept out of its purview for the time being. The Board would have a full time Secretary.

The Bhakra Control Board considered these suggestions at its last meeting and decided to leave further action on these proposals to be taken by the Government of Punjab and the Himachal Pradesh Administration.

#### **Revised Trunk Call Rates**

\*438. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the revenues that Government are expecting from revision in the rates of trunk calls?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):** Trunk Call Rates have not been revised, only the periods and extent of concession have been changed.

No significant change in the revenue is expected.

#### **Short Wagon Supply for Food Movement**

\*439. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food movement from Orissa to West Bengal has been held up due to inadequate allotment of wagons by the S.E. Railway authorities;

(b) whether the two State Governments of Orissa and West Bengal have brought this matter to the notice of the Railway authorities;

(c) whether the representative of the S.E. Railway authorities was invited to a joint conference of the officials of the two State Governments recently held in Calcutta; and

(d) if so, what is the actual position in this regard?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) No. In fact the total movement of rice and paddy ex-Orissa to West Bengal from 28th December, 1959 to 18th February, 1960 was 4,724 wagons which is approximately 94,480 tons.

(b) The Railway authorities have been requested by the State Governments to step up the movement further.

(c) The representative of the South Eastern Railway was not asked to attend the recent joint conference of the officials of the State Governments of West Bengal and Orissa at Calcutta but close liaison is being maintained by the Railways with the Principal Liaison Officer of the West Bengal Government. The Railway representative also attends the weekly Transport Advisory Committee's meetings held by the Chief Minister of West Bengal every Tuesday where the question is discussed.

(d) The traffic is being cleared expeditiously.