

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister says it is a difference of opinion whether a qualified engineer is necessary or any other person can do the work. Therefore, the question of qualification does not arise.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** How much money was spent on this officer's tour to the United States?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He said it was insignificant.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** May I know, Sir, whether these four tractors were indentated for by the E. P. S. authorities or they were imposed upon them?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** No, Sir, nothing is imposed. I do not think we are capable of imposing anything upon anybody. They were purchased by them because they were found necessary. But they were trucks and not tractors.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** May I know, Sir, the total number of tractors which are lying unused by the Centre Tractor Organisation now?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** First of all, the question was about trucks. I have not got the figures here, but I do not think there are any tractors which are purchased and not used.

#### 'CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS' IN ASSAM

**\*1661. Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amount of money was granted by the Central Government to the Government of Assam for setting up "Cheap Grain Shops" for the Garos of border areas?

(b) How many Cheap Grain Shops were set up and how many people have been benefited?

(c) Has any portion of the amount granted been surrendered by the authorities to the Central Government?

(d) If so, what amount has been surrendered and why?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) The Central Government did not give any grant for the purpose but promised to bear the cost of subsidised sales of rice in Khasi and Jaintia and Garo at Shillong prices if Assam Government's revenues were not augmented as a result of the Finance Commission's recommendations.

(b) Nine Cheap Grain Shops have been set up and an approximate popu-

lation of 25,000 is expected to be benefited.

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

**Shri Sarmah:** How does the position stand at present, after the report of the Finance Commission? May I know whether the Central Government subsidise the Government of Assam or not?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Their finances have been augmented as a result of the Finance Commission's recommendations, and the Finance Ministry says there is no reason why we should subsidise the grain.

#### INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

**\*1663. Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether talks on the international Wheat Agreement have taken a final shape?

(b) If so, what is the new ceiling price fixed?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes Sir.

(b) \$2.05 (gold dollar) per bushel in Store Ft. William/Port Arthur.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know, Sir, the quantity we have agreed to purchase every year, and also if the price goes down in the open market, whether it will be obligatory on us to pay at agreed rate?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We discussed all this yesterday.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** Yes, Sir. This was discussed yesterday.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I will proceed to the next question.

Next: Question No. 1665.

**Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Sir, there is an important correction to (a) of the question. It is 'do not get adequate cargo from the same port'.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** How can a question be corrected now?

#### CARGO F SHIPS AT CALCUTTA PORT

**\*1665. Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreignships loading at Calcutta port sailed almost always with full loads of cargo