

Shri K. Pradhami:
Shri Hirji:

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

(a) whether there is enough stock of sugar to meet the requirements of the country for one year; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to increase the production and distribute evenly the available stock?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The reason is a severe fall in sugar production expected during the current year as compared with last year, on account of decline in production of sugarcane due to drought conditions at the time of sowing and period of growth and consequent diversion to gur and khandsari manufacture. Incentives were given in the shape of increase in price of sugarcane but these did not prove to be of much help as gur and khandsari producers could pay even higher prices. Action is being taken to ensure equitable distribution of available supplies during the rest of the year

Farm Credit to Farmers

69. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of providing farm credit to farmers on easy terms has been considered; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Farmers, who are members of the primary credit societies, can obtain short-term credit from these societies on the basis of their production requirements and subject to their re-

paying capacity. As far as practicable, loans for inputs like seeds and fertilizer are issued in kind. The procedures for issue of loans have been streamlined and simplified to enable the farmers to obtain the requirements of inputs and cash in time.

To cater to the needs of farmers, who are not members of cooperatives, Government continues to provide tac-cavi loans. Here also the procedures have been streamlined and simplified.

Sugar Rates

70. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar is made available to the consumers in different States at different rates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring uniformity in the rates and to reduce them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is due to differences in ex-factory prices of sugar which are fixed on a regional basis with reference to relevant cost schedules.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Madras Harbour Explosion

71. Shri Seshayan: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 584 on the 22nd February, 1966 and state:

(a) the further action taken on the report of the enquiry about the Madras Harbour Explosion on the 3rd June, 1965; and

(b) the compensation paid to those affected by the explosion?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao):

(a) The contents of the report of enquiry have been brought to the notice of the Madras Port Trust who have made necessary arrangements to ensure better care and supervision in the handling of hazardous goods on board and ashore. The main conclusions of the report have also been brought to the notice of the other Port Trusts for their guidance.

(b) Rs 22,000 was paid as compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act in respect of three mazdoors of the Madras Dock Labour Board who died and Rs 583 to others for minor injuries sustained by them.

Food Corporation of India

72. Shri Seshiyas: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 1308 on the 15th November, 1966 and state

(a) whether the proposal to establish two principal control offices of the Food Corporation in Madras and Delhi with the suggestion that the top officer of the Corporation should be stationed in Delhi has been examined, and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India has sent a further proposal for shifting its head office from Madras to Delhi. The proposal is under examination.

Hindustan Shipyard, Vishakhapatnam

73. Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Director of Ship Construction

and Chief Shipyard Manager at Hindustan Shipyard, Vishakhapatnam have been lying vacant for some time; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b) The post of Director of Ship Construction is currently being held by the Managing Director, who is a technical officer, in addition to his duties as Managing Director, as a measure of economy. The post of Chief Shipyard Manager has also not been filled up for the same reason.

Development of Kantilo as Tourist Centre

74. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state

(a) whether Kantilo, the abode of Nila Madhab, an important religious and tourist centre in Khandpara in Orissa has been included for development as a tourist centre in the Fourth Plan, and

(b) if so the provision made for the development of communications for this important tourist centre?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b) There is no scheme for the development of Kantilo in Orissa in the Fourth Plan of the Department of Tourism. However a lump sum provision of Rs 350 lakhs has been made in the plan for tourist schemes of local importance in Orissa to be financed entirely by the State Government.

Aerodrome between Guntur and Vijayawada

75. Shri Maddi Sudarsanam: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received suggesting the need for an aerodrome between Guntur and Vijayawada, and