

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove this shortage of sugar in the market and bring down the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. The decontrol has been in respect of 40 per cent of the sugar production.

(b) and (c). The prices of sugar in the free market have declined to some extent with the increase in arrivals. They are expected to get stabilised with the arrival of further stocks and future releases of sugar for free sale.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF WAGE BOARD ON IRON ORE INDUSTRY IN GOA

3959. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the iron ore industry in Goa have requested for the exemption from the obligation to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) :

(a) A representation was received from the Goa Mineral Ore Exporters' Association requesting that implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board might be held in abeyance.

(b) The request made by the Association has not been acceded to. The Association has been requested to advise its members to implement the Wage Board's recommendations.

FOOD IMPORTS UNDER PL 480

3960. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether supply of three million tons of foodgrains to India under PL 480 during 1968 is dependent on the fulfilment of certain conditions;

(b) if so, what are those conditions, and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The negotiations for getting supplies of foodgrains during 1968 from the U.S.A. under PL-480 are still in progress. The quantity which is expected to be made available under the next agreement is 3.5 million tonnes for the first six months of the year. The conditions which will be incorporated in the next agreement have not yet been finalised.

WATERMEN IN THE ANDAMAN FOREST DEPARTMENT

3961. SHRI K. R. GANESH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-gazetted staff of the Andaman Forest Department is given indent for watermen;

(b) if so, the charges for the same and the market rates for watermen;

(c) whether this concession is given to the industrial staff also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

REPAIR OF L.C.T. AND FOREST CRAFTS IN ANDAMAN

3962. SHRI K. R. GANESH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of repairs of the L.C.T. and other Forest Crafts of the Andaman Forest Department separately for the years from 1962 to 1967; and

(b) the reasons for the increase in their repairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The information