

Age of Foodgrains with F.C.I.

1019. SHRI K. N. DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average age of Food Corporation of India's existing stocks of foodgrains;

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent this from going up; and

(c) at what level it is proposed to maintain buffer stocks of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) About 15 months.

(b) Keeping in view the need for turn over of the stock, as far as possible the old grain is moved first to the consumption points in preference to the new grain and efforts are made to issue such old grain first. Further various measures have also been taken by the Government with a view to increase off-take of foodgrains through public distribution system.

(c) A Technical Group headed by the Union Food Secretary was appointed by the Government to go into all aspects of the buffer stocking of foodgrains. It has recommended that a minimum buffer stock of 12 million tonnes should eventually be built by the end of the Fifth Plan. However, it also took the view that keeping in view constraints of resources and the storage accommodation, the buffer stock for the next two three years may be taken on a slightly lower figure of 10 million tonnes. This will be over and above the operational stock required for the maintenance of the Public Distribution System. The report of the Technical Group is being examined by the Government.

Fishing Harbour at Paradeep Port

1020. SHRI SARAT KUMAR KAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project report for construction of fishing harbour at Paradeep Port has been received by the Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the project being delayed inspite of the prospect of earning handsome foreign exchange by exporting prawn?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no undue delay, as such projects require elaborate examination, both technical and financial by various Ministries/State Governments, etc.

Basic Education to Adult women

1021. SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per recommendation of the Committee on Status of Women, a scheme to provide basic education to adult women was sanctioned; and

(b) if so, in which part of the country this scheme is in operation?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.