

(d) the time by which the Government propose to provide the basic amenities in those flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Rice Milling Regulation Act

6684. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to repeal the Rice Millers Marketing Regulation Act, 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the facilities to be extended as a consequence thereof, alongwith the training centres to be opened State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to rescind the jaggery control order; and

(d) if so, the effect thereof on the distillation of illicit liquor particularly in Andhra Pradesh where liquor is prohibited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) If and when the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 is repealed, anybody in the country would be free to carry out rice milling operations.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Gur Control Order has been rescinded w.e.f. 21.3.1995.

(d) No such study has been undertaken.

Water Supply to Ramagundam Thermal Power Project

6685. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether adequate water supply is not available to Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether water is being supplied from Sriramsagar Project in Andhra Pradesh to the above Project temporarily;

(d) if so, whether ryots are affected on account of diversion of water supply; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to ensure adequate water supply to Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) Adequate water is being supplied to Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station (RSTPS) in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Water is supplied to the Power project from Pochampad Canal of Sriramsagar Project on a permanent basis.

(d) Provision has been made for supply of water to ryots.

(e) Government of Andhra Pradesh is ensuring adequate water supply to RSTPS on a permanent basis.

[Translation]

Life Span of Merchant Ships

6686. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH :

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have rejected the request made by ship owners for giving relaxation in time for procurement of ships;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the request made by ship owners;

(d) if so, the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the average life span of the Indian merchant ships compared to that of foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. The Government has granted relaxation in age norms for acquisition of various types of second hand vessels by way of import in order to give further boost of shipping industry in the light of economic reforms and liberalisation process.

(e) The average age profile of Indian ships is 12.7 years as compared to the world average age of 17 years.

[English]

Hindustan Copper Limited

6687. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) suffered heavy losses during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to convert HCL into a commercially viable unit?