

Development of Visakhapatnam Port

1259. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA-MURTY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Visakhapatnam Port Trust proposed to upgrade the iron-ore handling facilities to handle 1,70,000 DWT iron ore carriers ;

(b) whether augmentation of berth capacity, modernisation of cargo handling equipments and development of infrastructural facilities are also proposed ;

(c) whether any proposals to develop the Island Oil Berth in the outer harbour has been chalked out to accommodate 1.5 lakh DWT tankers ;

(d) if so, the details of the above proposals including the financial outlay involved in each case ; and

(e) whether Visakhapatnam Port Trust has been discussing with the Asian Development Bank for financial assistance amounting to Rs. 18.46 crores for converting two, second world war jettys into regular quay berths for loading bauxite at the inner harbour; if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The oil berth in the outer harbour is alrerdy capable of handling tankers of size 1.5 lakhs DWT. The Port has ordered a tractor tug to facilitate the berthing of the said tankers.

(d) The Detailed Project Report for upgrading the iron ore handling facilities has not been received by Government and as such the financial outlay etc. are not known. The Oil Berth in the outer harbour was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 43.11 crores which included Rs. 28.27 crores for construction of berth and other allied surface transport facilities and Rs. 14.84 crores for laying of pipeline from the berth to the refinery.

(e) Discussions were held with the Asian Development Bank but it has been decided not to avail of this offer.

Production of Rice

1260. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of rice during the last three years ;

(b) whether the price of rice has increased or decreased in the last three years with details thereof ;

(c) the international price of Basmati rice; and

(d) whether any success has been achieved in the production of high yielding varieties of Basmati rice ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The estimates of production of rice during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Production (Million tonnes)
1985-86	63.83
1986-87	60.42
1987-88 (Provisional)	55.78

(b) The all India average of monthly index number of wholesale prices of rice with 1970-71 as base year for the last three years are :

1985	= 281.9
1986	= 296.6
1987	= 317.0

(c) The international price of Basmati rice varies widely depending upon the quality of rice traded and the competitive prices

offered by the suppliers. The average monthly price of Basmati rice during January to May 1988 for the Singapore Market was Rs. 1485 per quintal.

(d) Several high yielding varieties of Basmati rice have been developed and released over the years in different parts of the country

These include : ADT-32	Recommended for Tamil Nadu
Basmati 217	Recommended for Haryana
Basmati 370	Recommended for Haryana
GR 101, GR 102	Recommended for Gujarat
Punjab Basmati-1	Recommended for Punjab
Sabarmati	Recommended for Delhi, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh.
Pusa—33	Recommended for Bihar.

Agriculture Minister's Visit Abroad

1261. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign countries visited by him during the second week of July, 1988; and

(b) the outcome of the talks held by him in the countries visited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The Minister of Agriculture visited Stockholm (Sweden) on the invitation of Director, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and Bangkok (Thailand) on the invitation of the Director General, Food and Agricultural Organisation

(FAO). At Stockholm, the Minister for Agriculture participated in the 29th Congress of the ICA. The important themes of discussions at the Congress of ICA were the basic values in cooperatives and development. At Bangkok, the Minister of Agriculture participated in the FAO Regional Conference for the Asia and Pacific. The issues for discussions covered, inter alia, food production for nutritional adequacy, progress and problems of livestock development in the region, promoting agro-forestry for improved land husbandry, the activities of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research besides a general review of the food and agricultural situation in the region and the activities and programme of work of the FAO in the region during 1988-89.

Setting up of Agricultural Colleges

1262. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of Agricultural Colleges proposed to be set up during the year 1987-88; and

(b) the ratio of unemployed Agricultural Graduates and Post-Graduates to those of employed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Sir, During the year 1987-88 two Agricultural Colleges were set up in Madhya Pradesh and one in Maharashtra.

(b) No specific information on this point is available.

Modernisation of Steel Plants with USSR Assistance

1263. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level Indian delegation visited USSR for talks with Soviet leaders regarding expansion, modernisation and construction of various steel plants;