

construction of such godowns on the understanding that they would extend storage facilities to the neighbouring villages whenever possible.

(e) Both in the interest of State Trading and co-operative marketing of agricultural produce, the co-operatives should be given monopoly for procurement of foodgrains, wherever state trading in foodgrains is introduced.

Demand for Fertilizers

386. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made in regard to the demand and supply of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, what are their estimates;

(c) the total amount of fertilizers (all kinds) allocated or earmarked for food-production and for other purposes respectively; and

(d) the total amount of fertilizers produced in the country and the quantity imported from other countries during the last three years?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Two statements are laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 77].

Bombay Port Trust

387. Shri M. B. Thakore: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information was received by the Bombay Port Trust some months ago about the fraudulent dealings in the matter of supply of labour;

(b) whether any enquiry was made; and

(c) if so, what was the result of the enquiry?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The matter is under investigation.

Par-Boiled Rice

388. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that par-boiled rice is superior to ordinary raw rice in nutritive qualities;

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to popularise the process of par-boiling throughout the country;

(c) what specific steps have been taken by Government to implement the new improved methods of par-boiling in the rice mills in the country;

(d) whether they are going to be introduced on a large scale; and

(e) whether the possibilities of using rubber roller type hullers by rice mills have been examined?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Apart from objections on sentimental grounds, unpleasant odour often stands in the way of larger consumption of par-boiled rice. Improved methods of par-boiling have been developed at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, and at the Jadavpur University, Calcutta, by which par-boiled rice free from unpleasant odour and more attractive in appearance can be produced. How the rice millers can be persuaded to produce such par-boiled rice and how it can be popularised are now being examined in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Panel of the Food Department.

(d) Yes, it is the intention to encourage the production of par-boiled rice.