

Extension of Inland Water Transport Service to Calcutta now Started between Patna and Ghazipur

1121. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an inland water transport service on the Ganga between Patna and Ghazipur has since been started ;

(b) whether it is proposed to extend the service to Calcutta and if so, when; and

(c) the number of the barges along with their capacity to be run for the Inland Water Service ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) An experimental-cum-promotional river service on the Ganga between Patna and Ghazipur has been started with effect from 10th November, 1971.

(b) The question of extending the service to Calcutta will be considered after the completion of Feeder Canal of Farakka Barage Project and after watching the results of the present experimental cum-promotional service.

(c) One pushtow unit consisting of four barges having a total carrying capacity of 500 tons is being operated for the present.

Work done by Indian Council of Agricultural Research for better quality of Wheat

1122. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the work done by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for improving the quality and flavour of wheat ;

(b) whether any comparative study has been made in the protein content of indigenous and imported wheat and the findings thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to popularise among the farmers the technique of growing better quality of foodgrains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sponsored research work under the All India Coordinated Wheat Improvement Project both on the production as well as the nutritional and physical characteristics of wheat. The work on these aspects is also in progress in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. As a result of this work, a large number of wheat varieties have been produced at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and other centres. These varieties are being evaluated for such characteristics as their protein content and chapati making quality. Some of the released varieties like Sharbati Sonora, Hira and U. P. 301 have good protein content and chapati making quality. All the strains under development are being tested both for yield and quality, so that high yielding cum-high quality varieties can be released.

(b) Both the indigenous and imported varieties of wheat have been studied for their protein content. It has been found that the protein content in both types of varieties varies with environmental factors and that many of the indigenous wheat varieties are not inferior to the imported types in their protein content. The imported varieties have, however, stronger gluten, making them suitable for automatised bread making.

(c) The seed of new varieties of wheat and other food grains having improved nutritional quality are distributed to the farmers through the National Seeds Corporation, Extension Directorate and the State Departments of Agriculture take active steps to popularise these varieties among the farmers.

Conference of India Society of Nuclear Medicines

1123. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Society of Nuclear Medicines during the fourth week