

of Assistant Secretary and Estate Officer without prior consultation with the Paradip port Trust ;

(b) whether the Paradip Port Trust had made any request to Government of Orissa to depute two officers for manning those posts ; and

(c) whether the Assistant Secretary who had been already holding that Office was man-handled by some of the members of the Port Shramik Congress (led by Utkal Congress of Orissa), as he was unable to hand over charge to the newly appointed Assistant Secretary because he was not given orders to that effect by the Chairman of the Paradip Port Trust ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Yes, but they later cancelled the order regarding Assistant Secretary.

(b) The Government of Orissa had been requested to send a panel of names of suitable officers for making a selection for appointment, on deputation, to the post of Assistant Secretary as the term of the incumbent at that time was due to expire shortly. The State Government had also been requested to agree to the extension of the term of deputation of the incumbent of the post of Estate Officer for a further period of two years.

(c) No.

Absorption of Sub-Assistant Engineers in Paradip Port Trust

1628. **SHRI DEVENDRA SATPATHY :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of clear decision of the Paradip Port Trust Board at its meeting held on 21st June, 1971 to revert two sub-Assistant Engineers to the Government of Orissa, the Port Trust has agreed to absorb them in the Port Trust services ; and

(b) if so, the action contemplated for flouting the decision of the Port Trust Board ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and

(b). Though the Port Trust Board had decided to revert two Sub-Assistant Engineers on deputation from the Government of Orissa, to the Paradip Port Trust, at its meeting held on the 21st June, 1971, the matter was reconsidered by the Board at its meeting held on 17th March, 1972. A Sub-Committee has been set up by the Board to consider the general question of absorption of deputationists and the Board will consider its recommendations on their receipt. Thereafter, the Chairman of the Port Trust Board will decide individual cases of deputationists on merits. The case of the two Sub-Assistant Engineers would, therefore, be decided accordingly.

Distress Sale of Tobacco In Andhra Pradesh

1626. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tobacco producers in Andhra Pradesh are being compelled to distress sale and that the prevailing prices have reached on all-time low ; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce any permanent machinery to keep a watch on the price behaviour and to take suitable remedial measures ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) The prices of tobacco showed downward trend this year on account of higher production and reported low quality of tobacco in certain areas of Andhra Pradesh. As a remedial measure, the State Trading Corporation has entered the market and according to the reports received there has been improvement in prices now.

(b) The Government of India have under consideration a proposal to set up a Tobacco Marketing Board dealing with marketing of Virginia Flue-Cured Tobacco.

Visit of a single Officer to U.S.A. instead of a Delegation

1630. **SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a single officer of his Ministry visited U.S.A. instead of a delegation, as