

of Government Funds, misuse of powers, delay in execution of the Tuticorin Harbour Project due to inefficiency of the Chief Engineer and Administrator etc. The matter is being looked into.

Taking over of wholesale trade in rice, wheat, sugar, cloth, edible oil and Kerosene

40. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reached any decision with regard to the take-over of the wholesale trade in rice, wheat, sugar, cloth, edible oil and kerosene;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme drawn up by the Government and when the scheme is going to be implemented; and

(c) whether the scheme includes monopoly procurement also; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE):

(a) to (c) The Government has reached the decision to take over wholesale trade in wheat, rice and levy sugar. A decision has also been taken to sell the entire production of controlled cloth through fair price shops approved by the State Governments, Super Bazars, fair price shops affiliated to the National Cooperative Consumers Federation and mills' retail shops. No decisions so far, have been taken in regard to the taking over of wholesale trade in edible oils and kerosene. The essential features of the scheme are to give the public agencies a more dominant role in the procurement and distribution of these commodities and thereby eliminating the role of the middlemen. Necessary steps to implement decisions are being taken.

Construction of river bridge over river Subernarekha, Orissa

50. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any money was sanctioned as a loan to the Orissa Government for construction of a river bridge over the river Subernarekha in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the amount of loan, date of receipt of the said loan by Orissa Government and whether construction has been started, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA):
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A loan of Rs. 74 lakhs has been approved for the construction of the proposed bridge over the river Subernarekha under the Central Aid Programme of State Roads of inter-State or Economic Importance. The loan was approved in letter dated 22nd January, 1971 and subsequently it has been agreed that the loan assistance would be shared equally by the Governments of West Bengal and Orissa though the work will be executed by the Orissa Government. The project falls within the delegated powers of the State Government for purposes of sanctioning the estimate. According to intimation received from the State Government, they accorded administrative approval for the work on the 30th September, 1972 at an estimated cost of Rs. 74.30 lakhs and have invited tenders which are being examined by the Tender Committee of the State Government. Necessary funds would be provided to the State Government whenever they ask for it.