

labour to discuss the question of settling up of a wage revision machinery.

However the Port Trust employees are not covered by the Payment of Bonus Act but have been paid *ex-gratia* in lieu of bonus for 1972-73 at the rate of 8-1/3 per cent.

Crisis in Bombay Port

1739. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bombay port has not as yet recovered from last year's crisis; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Presumably the reference is to congestion in Bombay Port. The position regarding pre-berthing detention to ships at Bombay Port has improved very materially since the introduction of third shift working in December, 1973. and there is no serious congestion now.

Target of Coarse Grain in absence of Enforcement of Levy on Farmer by State Governments

1740. SHRI M. S. PURTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in a position to reach the target of coarse grain, keeping in view the reluctance of State Governments to enforce any levy on farmers as the gap between the procurement and market prices is very wide; and

(b) if so, the policy of Government in such circumstances?

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

(a) and (b). With a view to maximise the procurement of coarse grains, the State Governments were allowed to adopt a system of procurement which was best suited to the local conditions. Producers' levy in the case of coarse grains has been imposed in some of the major producing States while in others there is a traders' levy on coarse grains or a combination of the two. The pace of procurement of coarse grains has been found to be slow in some States indicating the likelihood of a substantial shortfall in the achievement of the target. One of the reasons for the slow pace of procurement is that the open market prices are ruling higher than the procurement prices. The progress of procurement has been reviewed with the States concerned. Action to step up the pace of procurement is being taken by the State Governments accordingly.

Pump Sets purchased in Bihar

1741. SHRI M. S. PURTY:

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3041 on the 3rd December, 1973 regarding crores wasted on junk pump sets in Bihar and state:

(a) the number of pumping sets purchased and distributed to the farmers in the State of Bihar during 1972-73;

(b) whether some of them were purchased by the Bihar Krishi Udyog Nigam and are lying in godown and are of no use; and

(c) if so, the number of such pumping sets and the money involved?