

(b) On account of bunching of ships and frequent disruption of work by the employees at the ports and on the Railways the discharge and clearance of foodgrains was adversely affected. Consequently, a number of ships were delayed on or for berths during the period November, 1973 to January, 1974. The exact amount of ship demurrage thus incurred is not yet known since the time sheets for the ships affected have not yet been finalised.

(c) In order to reduce the bunching of vessels almost all the major/minor ports in the country were utilised for discharging foodgrains. Other steps taken were installation of new discharging machines; resorting to midstream discharge in barges from vessels; introduction of third shift in certain ports and depots; incentive piece-rate scheme for labour; augmentation of labour force, increased clearance of foodgrains by road and rail as and when possible, etc.

#### **Constitutional protection to Land Ceiling Legislation of Andhra Pradesh**

1756. SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government for constitutional protection to the States Land Ceiling Legislation; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised land ceiling act of Andhra Pradesh requires some further amendment. A bill incorporating the proposed amendments has been introduced to the State Legislature. After it is enacted, necessary steps for the inclusion of the ceiling law in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution will be taken.

#### **Charges against F.C.I.**

1757. SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been increased charges of corruption, mismanagement, inefficient administration against the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether Government of India has taken note of these allegations;

(c) whether there are proposals to streamline the functioning of the Food Corporation of India in view of these allegations; and

(d) if so, the gist thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). The working of the Food Corporation of India is under constant review and administrative, financial and other steps as may be necessary are being taken with a view to achieving greater efficiency and economy in its operations. Allegations against the FCI and its working are always taken note of by Government.

#### **Passenger Shipping Link between Bombay and Konkan Ports**

1758 SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger shipping link between Bombay and Konkan ports had been discontinued for sometime past;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether the service is being resumed?