

differed on the quantum of sugar to be exported; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). Various suggestions in regard to the quantum of sugar to be exported have been received from the different Ministries consulted. The quantity of sugar to be exported will be reviewed and decided from time to time taking into account the production prospects, requirements for domestic consumption and the international price trends.

100,000 tonnes of Salt lying with Tuticorin Market owing to lack of Shipping

1776. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that about 100,000 tonnes of salt are lying in the Tuticorin market owing to lack of shipping facilities and at the same time there is an acute scarcity of salt in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure fair distribution to the people?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) The Salt Manufacturers and Merchants Association of Tuticorin had brought to the notice of the Director General of Shipping in December, 1973 that a quantity of 1.5 lakh tonnes of salt was awaiting shipment from Tuticorin to Calcutta and had requested for allocation of shipping space. No scarcity of salt in West Bengal has so far been reported.

(b) The shipment of salt from Tuticorin to Calcutta from December, 1973 to February, 1974 is as follows:

(Tonnes)		
Month	No. of ships sailed	Quantity Shipped
December, 1973	5	19,226
January, 1974	1	6,019
Feb. '74 (Upto 15-2 74)	3	20,049

Efforts are being made to increase the availability of ships for movement of salt to Calcutta.

Basis of computation of marketable surplus in fixing procurement targets and levy rate

1777. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of computation of marketable surplus in fixing procurement targets for States and levy rate for individual agriculturists; and

(b) what are the State targets and individual levy rates, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Two Statements (I and II) giving the required information about procurement targets and rates of levy on agriculturists respectively are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6308/74].

The procurement targets for States are fixed in consultation with the State Governments taking into account the assessment of marketable surplus computed on the basis of estimated production consumption pattern and