

(b) The ships ordered/acquired are intended to serve India's trade. A few of these ships are not able to enter Indian ports at present. All ship acquisition proposals are approved keeping in view the ports development programme. All our ships will be able to berth at Indian port in the near future as our ports are being developed to serve the needs of India's overseas trade.

The provision of Rs. 61.13 crores in the budget of 1973-74 for Shipping Development Fund Committee was fully utilised and no cut was imposed. The provision made in the Budget Estimates for 1974-75 for the S.D.F.C. is Rs. 71.50 crores and not Rs. 30 crores stated in the Article. It is not correct that it takes at least six months to approve ship acquisition proposals.

The bunker prices had to be fixed from time to time taking into account the prospects and the prices at which oil and oil products were to be available as well as the need to conserve the limited supplies and resources available.

Food Position in Gujarat

6700 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the current food position in Gujarat with particular reference to production, procurement, Central supply of foodgrains, quantity of ration foodgrains and sugar supplied through ration and fair price shops, and

(b) the steps taken to ease the food position in this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):
(a) According to the preliminary estimates, the production of kharif foodgrains in Gujarat for 1973-74 is

higher as compared to that of the earlier year. About 9400 tonnes of bajra, 4000 tonnes paddy and 100 tonnes of wheat have been locally procured in the State during the last three months. In addition, the State Government purchased about 34000 tonnes of coarse grains, 2000 tonnes of rice and 1500 tonnes of gram from other States during the said period. The allocation of foodgrains to the State from Central pool during the period February to April has been 52,000 tonnes per month. The quantum of sugar for issue through fair price shops has been increased to 600 grams per head per month for April, 1974. The quantum of foodgrains varies from 2 kgs. to 8 kgs. in different parts of the State according to availability and local conditions.

(b) The steps taken to ease the food situation are (a) removal of restrictions on the movement of coarse grains, (b) announcement of the new procurement and pricing policy of wheat for 1974-75 season, which envisages improvement in the open market availability in deficit States, and (c) intensive checking of stocks and undertaking of raids by State Governments to unearth the hoarded stocks.

University at Pondicherry

6701 SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:
Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 663 on the 25th February, 1974 regarding opening of new Universities and state:

(a) when the proposed University at Pondicherry will start functioning?

(b) whether this University would be under the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?