

(c) It is estimated that the customising units of 2500 Agro service centres shall be able to provide additional 135 Million tractor hours of agricultural operations.

**Steamer Passenger Service in Gujarat**

3510. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:  
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to start steamer passenger service in Gujarat State; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a). No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Change in procurement policy after Chief Ministers' meeting**

3511 PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has changed its procurement policy after the Chief Ministers' meeting held in February, 1974; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of these changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) No meeting of Chief Ministers was held in February, 1974 to consider the procurement policy.

(b) Does not arise.

**Poor Rabi Crop in U.P. and Bihar due to shortage of Diesel and Power and lack of rain**

3512. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments' attention has been drawn to the poor rabi crop in U.P.;

(b) if so, whether the rabi crop position in Bihar is also the same as in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether winter rains have failed in both the States and land could not be irrigated due to shortage of diesel and power supply; and

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to ensure supply to diesel and power?

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

(a) and (b). The estimates of production of rabi crop in various States have not yet become available. However, rabi production during the current year would depend upon a number of factors like favourable conditions of soil moisture that prevailed at the time of sowing, deficiency of rainfall during January-February, 1974, overall shortage of fertilisers and weather conditions during the remaining part of the season in different States.

(c) and (d) A few complaints were received about shortage of diesel oil for agricultural purposes from both these States. The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals are taking steps to increase the availability of diesel oil and the State Governments have been advised to keep a strict watch on the distribution system to ensure adequate supplies to the agriculturists.