

Society, which is the agency for the collection of levy, would be opening adequate number of purchase centres under the guidance of the Collector;

(7) The purchase price of levy wheat would be Rs. 105/- per quintal for naked grain, which includes Rs. 2 per quintal for transport and an element of incentive bonus.

Deforestation for Agriculture

4491. SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme to deforest for extension of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the States and a reply will be placed on the Table of Lok Sabha as soon as the relevant information is received.

Modernisation of Indian Ports

4492. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shippers Conference has requested for modernising the Indian ports; and

(b) if so, whether Government have schemes in this regard and with special reference to the main Ports of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. But it is understood that All India Shippers' Council has submitted a Note on Port Facilities to Ministry of Commerce.

(b) As regards modernisation of ports, the Council has suggested that development of port facilities at Haldia and Nhava Sheva be expedited. It is likely that Haldia dock system will be commissioned during this year. As regards Nhava Sheva, Planning Commission have set up Working Groups to consider traffic estimates and environmental problems and they will take a view on the project after the reports of the Working Groups are received.

Government have undertaken various schemes for modernising major ports in the country.

Opposition to Nationalise Sugar Industry in U.P.

4493. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, in her article in the "Socialist India" republic day number, has said that Shri Kamlapati Tripathi and Shri Bahuguna, former and present Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh respectively had sought the permission of the Central Government to nationalise sugar industry and the Centre refused to give necessary permission on the ground that nationalisation of this industry might lead to decline in production;

(b) if so, on which specific grounds the Centre is opposed to nationalisation of sugar industry; and

(c) what are the main findings of the Sugar Inquiry Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). An extract of the relevant portion from the exclusive interview given to 'Socialist India' by the Prime Minister and published in its Republic Day Number is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6534/74].

(c) The Commission has submitted its final Report on the 27th February, 1974 and it is under examination. A copy of