

which sugar was loaded. They have sent samples of the stock suspected to be contaminated to the Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta for analysis and have requested the Government of India to have the matter investigated in order to fix responsibility

Rationing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

444. Shri K. E. Ganesh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice given to the tribal people of the Nicobar group of Islands under the Informal rationing in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1966-67;

(b) the quantum given to the non-tribal population in the Nicobar group in 1966-67;

(c) the quantum given to the residents in the Andaman group covered under the informal rationing system in 1966-67; and

(d) the quantum given to the industrial workers in the Andaman group in 1966-67?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) 2 kgs. per head per month with an additional 6 kgs. per head per month to labourers employed in heavy manual work since middle of July, 1966.

(b) 4.8 kgs. per adult per month with an additional 3.2 kgs. per head per month for heavy manual labourers

(c) and (d). 4.8 kgs. per adult per month for all categories of consumers including industrial workers since 16th May, 1966.

Protein from Fish Powder as Food Supplement

445. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a powdered fish concentrate which is 80 per cent protein could be easily produced as a food supplement at a very low cost from the un-harvested 'trash' fish in the Indian waters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the product is nearly odourless and tasteless resembling a light grey flour and could be mixed with cooked foods and *atta* used for *chapatties*; and

(c) whether the desirability of exploring the feasibility of its use has been examined?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Powdered fish concentrate can be produced as a food supplement from trash fish but economic production is not possible in India at present due to the dispersed and variable nature of fish landings along the coast and the high cost of fish. With mechanised exploitation of trash fish on a large scale the concentrate could be produced at an economic cost.

(b) and (c). The product manufactured abroad is of two types, odourless and with odour. A small percentage of the odourless type can be mixed with bread and other cooked foods, and experiments are being conducted in regard to introduction of suitable quantities of the flour in various Indian preparations. The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology at Cochin has been able to evolve a good product on a laboratory scale. A plant for manufacture of the concentrate on a pilot scale has been designed and is proposed to be fabricated indigenously.