

(a) whether Government have approved three major schemes on the poultry front in Kerala, as part of the "crash programme" for livestock and poultry production; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and when they will be implemented?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah-nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Three schemes for (i) establishment of one Intensive Poultry Development Block at Petta (Trivandrum), (ii) establishment of Egg Collection Centres and Storage Depots at Chenghanur and (iii) providing credit facilities to poultry farmers have been approved for Kerala under the Crash Programme at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.97 lakhs in 1964-66. All the three schemes are intended to be fully implemented by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan.

Agricultural Production

1087. Shri D. S. Patil: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of agricultural production programme under the Third Five Year Plan in Maharashtra; and

(b) the names of the Districts in Maharashtra which attained targets in food production together with the estimated and actual increase in agricultural food output?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The Third Five Year Plan envisages an increase in production of foodgrains in Maharashtra from the base level (1960-61) of 63.66 lakh tonnes to 81.26 lakh tonnes in 1965-66. The production of food-grains crops in Maharashtra in 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64 was 60.70, 65.23 and 67.49 lakh tonnes respectively. The decline in the production in 1961-62 was specially due to excessive rains in September-October 1961. In 1962-63, however, the agricultural production recovered and by 1963-64 recorded further advances.

(b) The information has been called for from the State Government and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha when received.

Singapore-Madras Shipping Service

1088. Shri M. G. Thengondar: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the accommodation available for passengers in the ships bound for Singapore from Madras and Nagapattinam is not sufficient and that a large number of them stand in the waiting list to get their chance for passage;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the present state of affairs; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to run an additional passenger ship between Madras and Singapore?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir. The passenger services between India and Malaya are operated by the British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. and the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. by their vessels s.s. 'Rajula' and s.s. 'State of Madras' respectively. The passenger carrying capacity of each of these vessels is as under:—

	s.s. 'Rajula'	s.s. 'State of Madras'
Saloon	172	150
Bunk	426	231
Deck (fair season)	1310	736
(Foul season)	973	698

There is ample accommodation available in both Saloon and Bunk class from Madras and Nagapattinam to Straits ports. The shipping companies do not maintain any waiting list on this service and the two ships generally sail with some vacant accommodation.

(b) Does not arise.