

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). The total long-term loans outstanding at the primary level as on 30th June, 1967, has been placed at Rs. 205 crores (approx.). During 1967-68 the land mortgage banks in the country are expected to provide long-term loans to the extent of Rs. 80-85 crores. Money raised through debentures supplemented by banks' own resources is distributed as long-term loans to farmers. Data for the current year will be available only after some time. The amount of loans made available through various land development banks depends primarily on the capacity of the bank to put through their loaning programme.

(d) The Land Development (Mortgage) Banks advanced long-term loans to eligible farmers for various purposes, the principal ones are:—

- (i) Construction and renovation of wells and other private minor irrigation sources;
- (ii) Purchase of oil engines and electric motors for minor irrigation purposes;
- (iii) Purchase of tractors and agricultural machinery;
- (iv) Purpose of land improvement;
- (v) Purchase of land;
- (vi) Debt redemption.

Of late, the banks have been providing loans generally for productive purposes. Loans are advanced for a period of 10-15 years against first mortgage of immovable property.

(e) Since the bulk of loans are made available for purposes which go to increase (directly or indirectly) the yield of land, it may generally be stated that they have helped in increasing the potentiality for agricultural production.

Rice from Burma

5517. SHRI DEIVEEKAN:
SHRI MAYAVAN:
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU:
SHRI ANBUCHERIAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burma has agreed to send two ships of rice to India recently which are being diverted to Ceylon to meet the shortage of rice there;

(b) if so, what was the total quantity of foodgrains in these ships; and

(c) the reasons for the diversion of ships to Ceylon when there is short of rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). On the request of the Government of Ceylon, the Government of India had agreed to loan them 10,000 tons of Burma rice and a ship carrying 8483 tons sailed from Rangoon on the 15th March, 1968 for discharge at Colombo. However, the Government of Ceylon subsequently intimated that they did not now require the loan of rice. The ship has, therefore, been diverted to Cochin.

(c) The loan of rice to Ceylon was agreed to to help a friendly neighbour country to tide over a difficult period. The rice was to be replaced by the end of June, 1968. Ceylon had also helped us during the difficult month of August, 1967 by diverting to India two of her vessels carrying about 18,000 tons of rice from Thailand and Burma. This quantity was later replaced to Ceylon from our imports from Thailand and Burma.