

have been allotted these fertilisers have been advised to sell these fertilisers after adding a fixed distribution margin. Small quantities of these two fertilisers are also produced by factories in India. These are sold by them directly through their own distributors or to the State Governments at ex-factory prices fixed by the Government of India. Cultivators' prices of these fertilisers have not been statutorily controlled because there is no pooling of prices and because a free market is allowed to indigenous producers of these fertilisers.

Phosphatic fertilisers and Potassic fertilisers are distributed by the manufacturers/importers either directly or through the State Government's agents. The ex-factory/ex-jetty/ex-godown prices of these fertilisers are, however, fixed by Government by negotiation.

Middlemen like wholesalers and retailers, who are mostly cooperatives, are essential for the distribution of fertilisers and they have to be paid an adequate commission to cover their expenses and a reasonable return on their investment.

Warehouse at Haldwani

756. Shri K. C. Pant: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a warehouse at Haldwani in U.P. for storing foodgrains for the adjoining hill areas;

(b) if so, when the warehouse will be constructed; and

(c) if not, the measures adopted by Government for maintaining buffer stocks of foodgrains to tide over the recurring difficulty regarding food supplies experienced by hill areas?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The responsibility for maintaining buffer stock of foodgrains at convenient centres to tide over local difficulties is that of the State Government. The Central Government, however, make allocations to State Governments from the stock of foodgrains available with them.

Hill Stations in U.P.

757. Shri K. C. Pant: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of tourists visiting hill stations in Uttar Pradesh has increased considerably;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the accommodation available in the hill stations is costly and inadequate;

(c) whether Government propose to set up hotels for middle class tourists at reasonable charges in the above hill resorts; and

(d) if not, whether the Tourist Department propose to grant loans to private entrepreneurs willing to set up hotels for middle class tourists?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the State Government. It will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No Sir.

(d) No Sir. Financial assistance to private entrepreneurs for setting up hotels is available through the Industrial Finance Corporation and/or State Financial Corporations.

Rotting of Wheat in sheds of Calcutta Port Commissioners

758. Shri Himatsingka: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item in the *Hindustan Standard* (Calcutta edition) dated the 24th October, 1965 to the effect that One thousand

tons of wheat are rotting in two sheds of the Calcutta Port Commissioners; and

(b) If so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) and (b). Yes. About 30 tonnes (379 bags) comprising of wheat sweepings remained for some time in the sheds of Calcutta Port. These sweepings were remnants of the various consignments of wheat brought by barges from Haldia Port where lightening of ships was done prior to the ships proceeding to Calcutta. These sweepings remained undelivered as it took considerable time for the Port Commissioners to link these quantities with particular shipments. The question of rent liability also took some time to sort out. Delivery of these quantities was taken and the stocks were examined by Technical Officers of the Department. The stocks were declared as being fit for human consumption and for issue after usual reconditioning. Action is being taken to clean and recondition these stocks for issue thereafter.

Missing Indian Vessels

759. Shri R. Barua:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Gulshan:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavalya:
Shri Bade:
Shri Yudhyir Singh:
Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti.

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four of the five Indian vessels which sailed from Bombay for Persian Gulf Port of Basra over a month back are still missing; and

(b) if not, where and in what condition they have been found?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). None of the

Indian Sailing Vessels which sailed from Bombay for Persian Gulf Ports is reported to be missing. However, out of the vessels that sailed from Saurashtra Ports, five vessels were reported to be missing. Out of these, two have since been traced at Kuwait loading dates and two more have been traced at Karachi where they have been detained by Pakistan. One sailing vessel is still missing and enquiries are in progress to find its whereabouts.

Minor Irrigation Schemes

760. Shri Krishna Deo Tripathi:
Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the measures and schemes adopted by Government to execute minor irrigation schemes to yield quick results with a view to increase food production during the Third Five Year Plan period;

(b) the amount sanctioned by Government under these schemes to the States and Union Territories;

(c) the conditions attached to these grants; and

(d) how much increase in food production these schemes are likely to bring?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The Government of India has been laying greater emphasis on quick development of minor irrigation resources in the country during the Third Five Year Plan. Consequent on proclamation of Emergency in October, 1962, the pace of surveys and investigations and implementation of minor irrigation schemes has been steadily increasing and increased Central assistance has been provided to States from time to time to keep up the tempo. Priority in accelerating the programme is being accorded to schemes like renovation of tanks, boring and deepening of existing wells, construction of tube-wells and lift irrigation from rivers and streams, etc., which provide cheap