

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

and assured irrigation. Various measures by way of strengthening the technical organisation, evolving specialised designs suitable for small works, training staff on minor irrigation and production of technical hand-books, are being taken to improve the technical standards in execution and maintenance of minor irrigation works.

Until 1964, only schemes for dugwells, boring and deepening of dugwells and renovation of tanks were eligible for a subsidy of 25 per cent, and those of *kuhls* to a subsidy of 50 per cent, the subsidies to be shared equally between the Centre and the States. In order to encourage lift irrigation schemes such as tubewells and pumpsets, it was decided in March 1965, to extend 25 per cent subsidy for these schemes also, to be shared equally between the Centre and the State Governments. Community Masonry wells have also been made eligible to a subsidy of 50 per cent to be shared equally between the Centre and the States from the next financial year 1966-67.

A special programme for installation of lift irrigation schemes on rivers and streams has also been taken up recently. State Schemes of lift irrigation would also be entitled to a Central subsidy of 12-1/2 per cent from 1966-67. In the field of electrification of pump-sets and tubewells, a special drive has been initiated. State Electricity Boards are being provided with additional finances for the extension of power lines in areas where there is a good potential for tubewells and pump-sets schemes to enable them to run on electricity. The Ministry of Irrigation and Power is planning to electrify about 1.4 lakh additional pump-sets during the next year.

(b) A statement showing the Third Plan outlay, actual expenditure during 1961-64, anticipated expenditure during 1964-65 and allotments (including additional allotments) during 1965-66 under the minor irrigation programme, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5160/65].

(c) The States have been informed that the Central assistance for minor irrigation programmes has been earmarked and is not available for diversion to other programmes. If the total revised outlay for this programme arrived at by adding the outlay agreed to from time to time is not utilised, the quantum of Central assistance would stand reduced in proportion to the shortfall in the actual outlay incurred as compared to their total revised outlay.

(d) It is anticipated that the Third Plan target of benefiting an additional area of 12.8 million acres by minor irrigation schemes would be over-reached of which about 80 per cent it is estimated would be under foodgrains. As the physical inputs in agriculture are used in combination, it is difficult to calculate the actual increase in food production attained by the use of any single factor of production. However, it has been broadly estimated that on an average every additional acre benefited by minor irrigation scheme contributes about 1/5 ton per acre of additional foodgrains production.

Delhi-Nagpur Air Service

762. Shri D. S. Patil: Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the discontinuance of the Air Service between Delhi and Nagpur; and

(b) the reasons for introducing Air Service between Bombay and Nagpur via Aurangabad?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Night Air Mail Service between Delhi and Nagpur is still operating but with Dakotas, and passengers are not carried. The operation of Night Air Mail Service with Viscounts was suspended for the following reasons:—

(i) There was very small passenger traffic on the Night Air Mail Service.