

(ख) इसी अवधि में गन्ने का उत्पादन प्रति एकड़, राज्यवार, औसतन कितना बढ़ा है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि प्रति एकड़ गन्ने का उत्पादन बढ़ने के बारे में बिहार सब से पिछड़ा हुआ राज्य है;

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो इस के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) पिछड़ापन दूर करने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राज्य सरकार को किस प्रकार की सहायता दी है ?

जाय तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री बा० रा० चहल्लाण) : (क) अन्तिम स्थालीपुलाक फसल कटाई सर्वेक्षणों के परिणामों के अनुसार, 1952-53 से 1961-62 की अवधि में गन्ने की अखिल भारतीय प्रति एकड़ पैदावार में 1.66 प्रतिशत प्रति वर्ष की दर से वृद्धि हुई थी।

(ख) सूचना देने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है। [पुस्तकालय में रखा गया बेलिये संख्या L.T-5270/65]

(ग) जी नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ङ) सामान्य गन्ना विकास योजना के अलावा, राज्य में गन्ने की प्रति एकड़ पैदावार बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से, हाल ही में, शर्करा फैक्ट्री के क्षेत्रों के आस-पास गन्ने की सघन खेती की एक योजना शुरू की गई है। इस योजना पर होने वाले कुल खर्च का 1/3 भाग केन्द्रीय सरकार देती है और शेष खर्च राज्य सरकार और हिताधिकारियों के बीच, 50:50 के आधार पर बांटा जाता है।

Increase in Freight Rate

**1565. Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Dr. Ranen Sen:**

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Com-

panies operating from East Coast of India on Australia and New Zealand route have announced a general increase in freight rates from October, 1965;

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes, a general increase of 7½ per cent. was effected from 1st October, 1965.

(c) The Government of India had lodged a strong protest with the shipping lines concerned who replied that the increase was inevitable due to increasing cost of operation and labour conditions and that in deference to the views of the principal trading associations, whom they had consulted, a number of commodities had already been exempted from the increase.

Water for Irrigation

1566. Shri Krishnapal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister in a letter addressed to the Members of the Planning Commission in October, 1965 made a suggestion that the cultivators should be given water free or at a nominal cost for irrigation purposes at least for one year; and

(b) if so, the action taken to implement this proposal?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah-nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prime Minister's suggestion to make available irrigation water to farmers either free or on a nominal payment for a period of a year has been considered at a High Level Meeting held in the Planning Commission on October 20, 1965. It was noted that most of the States had already provided for graded water charges in the commands of new irrigation projects. It was further agreed that this approach should be adopted for

additional crops also in the old projects in addition to the command of new irrigation projects.

Plant Protection Measures

1567. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the crops to the total produce in a year which came under plant protection measures; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to raise this percentage so as to eliminate the loss of grains?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah-nawaz Khan): (a) Approximately 10 per cent. of crops came under plant protection measures in the year 1964-65.

(b) Yes. There is a proposal gradually to intensify plant protection measures. In the last years of the 1st and 2nd Five Year Plans a level of coverage of 6.1 and 16.0 million acres respectively was reached. It is anticipated that a level of coverage of 43 million acres per year will be reached in the last year of the 3rd plan. It is proposed to reach a level of coverage of 210 million acres per year in the 3rd year of the Fourth Plan and to maintain that level for the last two years of the Fourth Plan.

Farm Prices

1568. **Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present farm prices in India are much below international levels;

(b) if so, what are its details; and

(c) how they compared in 1950, 1955 and 1960 respectively?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah-nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). It is difficult to give a categorical answer to this question primarily because comparable farm prices are not published by many countries and secondly Indian farm prices are lower than those in some and higher than those in other countries. A comparative statement, for some important countries for which farm prices are available, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1568/65].

National Co-operative Bank

1569. **Shri Himatsingka:**
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:

Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a national co-operative bank; and

(b) if so, when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). The Ram Niwas Mirdha Committee on Cooperation recommended the setting up of a National Cooperative Bank, which would form the apex of the cooperative financial structure in the country. The Conference of State Ministers of Cooperation held on the 3rd and 4th of November, 1965 which considered the recommendations of the Mirdha Committee recommended that the All India Cooperative Banks' Federation should be requested to study the proposal in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Community Development & Cooperation. The matter will be considered further in the light of the study.