

favour with the Ministry of Works and Housing as the work can conveniently be executed by them; and

(c) whether a reconciliation has been reached between the two ministries?

**The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** (a) to (c). A scheme for setting up a Central Road Construction Department in Rajasthan has been under consideration. The Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development expressed the view that the spare capacity of the C.P.W.D. should be utilized on road works in Rajasthan. The question of utilizing the spare capacity of the C.P.W.D. in the best possible way on other works is under consideration.

#### **Grain Transporting Expert from London**

**1230. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Grain Transporting Expert from London visited India recently on a Government fact-finding mission;

(b) if so, the object of his mission; and

(c) the suggestions made by him?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) and (b). To tide over the present difficult food situation in the country, the Government of India have approached several countries including the United Kingdom for assistance. One of the items on which assistance has been sought is mechanical equipment required at the ports to handle a large volume of imports of foodgrains. It was in the context of this request that the Government of U.K. sent one of their experts, who accompanied the U.S. Special Food Mission on their visits to

Indian ports during January, 1966 to assess the handling capacity of these ports and the additional machinery and equipment required for grain handling.

(c) No report by this expert has been received by the Government of India.

#### **Aid from U.S.A. for Drought-affected Areas**

**1231. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
Shri Murli Manohar:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Agency for International Development has announced to expedite despatch of 54,000 tons of wheat to aid drought sufferers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms for the supply of wheat; and

(c) when the wheat is likely to be available in India?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) to (c). It is the World Food Programme of the United Nations and not the United States Agency for international Development which has made an allocation of 54,000 metric tons of wheat to this country for distribution in the areas affected by the drought. The first instalment of about 42,000 tons of this allocation is expected to arrive in the country during the month of March. The balance quantity will be shipped so as to reach here during April.

#### **Fish, Prawns and Shrimps**

**1232. Shri Shyam Lal Saraf:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long Coast Line of our country abound in fish, prawns and shrimps, which are not only valuable for food but have a good export potential;

(b) whether significant proportion of the game suffers spoilage due to bacterial contamination and becomes unfit for home consumption and export; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the position in this behalf?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) In order to improve the position, it is proposed to set up a chain of cold storages and frozen fish storages along the coast line and to introduce refrigerated rail and road transport.

#### Cattle Fodder

**1233. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel has developed a new variety of Cacti which can serve as a substitute for ordinary cattle fodder;

(b) if so, whether India is also experimenting in the same variety of fodder; and

(c) if so, with what result?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Soil Testing Sets

**1234. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Mobile Soil Testing sets in the intensive areas of Package Programme;

(b) if so, whether the sets are ready for action; and

(c) the detailed process of their application?

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**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** (a) and (b). Yes. A scheme to introduce Mobile Soil Testing Units in the Intensive Agricultural Areas is under consideration. This scheme will be implemented after the approval of the Planning Commission has been obtained and necessary funds provided.

(c) The scheme envisages the provision of one mobile soil testing unit to start with, for each district of the country. Ultimately, one such unit may be provided for each block. Each unit will be attached to a standard soil testing laboratory. In the phased programme of implementation of the scheme, priority will be given to the laboratories serving the Intensive Agricultural Areas, and to the areas where fertilizer consumption has reached a high level.

#### Gramdan Movement

**1235. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) how does the working and organisation of statutory Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha under the Gramdan movement of each State differ; and

(b) the merits and demerits of these two types of institutions?

**The Deputy Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde):** (a) Statutory Gram Panchayats exist in all the States for every village or group of villages, while Gram Sabhas under the Gramdan movement are set up under their law for each of the Gramdan villages in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The Gram Panchayats consist of elected Panches and a Sarpanch; Gram Sabhas of Gramdan villages, in some States called Gram Parishads/Mandals, with their own directly elected Presidents and executive and other committees, if any, consist of the