

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism, (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) The money invested by the State Government on the development of the Project till the date of taking over has been treated as a loan to the Port Project to be repaid in due course when it is financially in a position to undertake such repayments.

(b) The first stage development of the Port has been nearly completed except for small residual works. The Port can operate as soon as the two tugs which are under construction are received.

(c) The cost of the first stage development of the Port is now estimated at Rs. 20.5 crores as against the Project Estimate amounting to Rs. 19.9 crores sanctioned by the State Government before the Project was taken over by the Centre.

Wonder Rice Seed

14. **Shri Maheswar Naik:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a wonder rice seed has been found out in the Central Rice Research Institute, which is likely to double the paddy yield; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to popularise the seed?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). No wonder rice seed has been found. Presumably, the reference is to Taichung Native 1, a high yielding rice variety, which has been introduced from abroad. At present this variety of seed is being multiplied on about 12,000 acres with a view to producing sufficient seed to cover about two million acres during Kharif 1966.

Ration shops in Harijan Colonies in Delhi

15. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no ration shops have so far been opened in the Harijan colonies in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government to solve the difficulties of the people living in Harijan colonies?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) No, Sir. Ration shops exist in all localities including those where there is a concentration of Harijans.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cost of Wood in India

16. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) how far the cost of the wood is high in India as compared to the other countries;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the prices of wood?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) Comparable data on the cost of wood in other countries is not available.

(b) High cost of wood in India is due to the demand being in excess of available supplies.

(c) "Forests" is a State subject. States are making efforts to increase production of wood on sustained basis by raising plantations and by opening up and working the hitherto inaccessible forest areas.