

**Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not correct to say that the Food Corporation has not been functioning effectively and successfully. The intention was that the activities of the Food Corporation should be extended to various States only gradually. This is being done. The Food Corporation is already functioning in eight States and it is expected that its activities would be extended to a few more States. Since the system of procurement is by compulsory levy, it is considered that it could be done better by the State Governments than by the Food Corporation which cannot exercise any coercive powers. The Food Corporation is, however, undertaking all other tasks of storage and movement of foodgrains.

**Loss Sustained by Transport Department, Kerala**

**2111. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Transport Department in Kerala incurred a loss of Rs. 26,300 because of change of a tender for spare-parts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to make an enquiry into the matter?

**The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy):** (a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Fisheries Corporation for Kerala**

**2112. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) by what time the Fisheries Corporation for Kerala will be formed; and

(b) what its structure and composition will be?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) The Government of Kerala have a proposal to set up a Fisheries Corporation in the name of "The Kerala Fisheries Corporation Limited". According to the present time schedule, this Corporation is likely to be registered before the end of this month.

(b) The proposed Corporation will be a State Government sponsored private limited company with an authorised share capital of rupees five crores entirely subscribed by the Government of Kerala. The Board of Directors will consist of State Government Officials and representatives of the fishing industry.

**Fixation of Price of Paddy in Kerala**

**2113. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that landlords of Kuttanad, Kerala have threatened to keep lands idle in case Government fails to fix the price of paddy at Rs. 75 per quintal;

(b) whether Government propose to pay something more than the market price to those who give the produce to Government; and

(c) the action taken to dissuade them from keeping the land idle?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) Yes, Sir. The memoranda received on the subject stated that the cultivators would be forced to leave paddy lands idle unless the price of Rs. 75 per quintal was paid.

(b) and (c). The Government is already paying to the producers in Kerala the maximum price fixed under the Maximum Price Control