

and a fishing harbour capable of handling medium vessels is ready at Tuticorin. Government have sanctioned recently a smaller harbour at Mallipattanam.

Tamil Nadu has as many as 2000 mechanised boats in operation and 800 more are proposed to be added during the course of the 5th Plan. This programme is being implemented by the State Fisheries Corporation, availing of institutional finances.

Supply of levy sugar to fair price shops in M. P. by Food Corporation of India.

*715. SHRI G. C. DIXIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) since when the Food Corporation of India was entrusted with the work of supply of levy sugar to fair price shops in M.P.;

(b) how much sugar was given to Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise upto December, 1974 for distribution in M.P.;

(c) how much sugar was actually supplied by Food Corporation of India during each year upto December, 1974, to M.P.;

(d) what are the reasons for the short supplies; and

(e) when the Central Government will make up this short fall to redress the difficulties of the consumers in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India took over the wholesale distribution of levy sugar in Madhya Pradesh from 1st January, 1973. The following quantity was allotted to it during the 1973 and 1974 for distribution in the State :

Year	Quantity allotted (Tonnes)
1973	1,57,873
1974	1,45,124

(c) The Food Corporation of India actually supplied 1,52,691 and 1,36,222 tonnes of levy sugar in 1973 and 1974 respectively.

(d) The main reasons for short supplies are attributable to longer leads from mills to the consuming centres, operational difficulties in obtaining wagons, delay in lifting by States nominees etc.

(e) All possible steps are being taken by the Corporation to improve the supply position.

Sugarcane Arrears

*716. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether sugarcane growers have to get about Rs. 100 crores as arrears from the sugar barons;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken for realising such a huge amount from the sugar barons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) The outstanding amount towards price of cane supplied by the growers to the mills during the current season was about Rs. 70.25 crores as on 15-3-75. This includes about Rs. 47.09 crores representing the value of the cane supplied during the preceding 14 days.

(c) The State Governments are taking all possible steps, including legal action wherever necessary, to get the arrears cleared.

Ganga-Brahmaputra Link Project

*719. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL : SHRI VEKARIA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers;

(b) when the project is likely to be taken in hand; and

(c) what will be the advantages or benefit to the country by this project?