

(b) Five firms have tendered for the work and tenders are under examination.

(c) Work on main bridge portion has not yet been started. Time schedule for completion will also depend upon award of contract and completion would depend on availability of funds.

MACHINERY TO TEST RESEARCH BY I.C.A.R. AND I.A.R.I. BEFORE THEIR PUBLICATIONS

*590. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 250 on 11th March, 1974 regarding I.C.A.R. Enquiry Committee on premature publicity of agriculture research achievement and state whether in view of I.C.A.R. Enquiry Committee report, Government have devised any machinery to ensure that the results of research done in I.C.A.R. and I.A.R.I. are properly tested before they are published for the use of agriculturists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE) :

In pursuance of the I.C.A.R. Enquiry Committee's recommendations, instructions have been issued to all the ICAR Institutions, Project Co-ordinators and the other participating institutions to strictly adhere to the experimental procedures already laid down for the purpose of thoroughly evaluating the research results for their merits. Advice has also been sent to these institutions to maintain a research project file in which stage to stage progress is being maintained systematically. Where a particular finding or an innovation reaches a final stage, it is expected to be discussed in the research councils of the Institutes, annual Workshop meetings of the All India Coordinated Projects and the State and the Central Variety Release Committees as the case may be before it is finally recommended for adoption.

OFFER BY FEDERATION OF ALL INDIA FOODGRAINS DEALERS' ASSOCIATION TO PROCURE MARKETABLE SURPLUS OF FOODGRAINS

*593. SHRI V. MAYAVAN :
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers' Association has offered to procure marketable surplus of grains;

(b) the other suggestions put forth by the Federation;

(c) whether Government have examined the suggestions made by the Federation; and

(d) if so, to what extent and when the final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED) :

(a) to (d). In their communications, the Federation of the All India Food-grain Dealers Association have made the following main suggestions :—

(1) The wholesale trade in wheat may be allowed to operate under a system of traders' levy and out of the purchases of wheat made by a trader for export outside the surplus States of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan and Delhi 50 per cent be surrendered to Government, agencies at a fixed price of Rs. 105 per quintal.

(2) The trader should be free to remove the remaining 50 per cent of the levy free quantity to any part of the country without restrictions.

(3) The public distribution system should be confined to the vulnerable sections of the society and that too in the deficit States only.

(4) All traders both wholesalers and retailers should be licensed by the State Governments and a reasonable ceilings on their stocks may be prescribed.

(5) All restrictions on inter-State and intra State movement of wheat and coarse grains may be removed effectively so that disparities between the surplus and deficit States may be eliminated.

(6) Consultative committees consisting of representatives of State Governments, growers trade, consumers etc., may be constituted at major purchasing and selling centres to regulate quick movement and proper distribution of foodgrains.

Government's Policy about procurement price of wheat during Rabi 1974-75 has already been announced in the Lok Sabha on 28th March, 1974.

SUPPLY OF SUB-STANDARD RICE TO WEST BENGAL BY F.C.I. PUNJAB

*597. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether F.C.I. Branch of Punjab manipulated and sent sub-standard rice to West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Central Government in such scandals and the F.C.I. officials responsible for such actions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b) After enquiry of the complaints received from West Bengal Government four officials of the State Civil Supplies Department and two officials of the F.C.I., Punjab Region, have been placed under suspension and show cause notices have been served on two rice millers. Suitable action will be taken against them after the enquiries are completed.

PERFORMANCE OF SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA

*600. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the performance of the Shipping Corporation of India during 1972-73 as it used to be in the past few years; and

(b) whether there has been any set back due to the recent oil crisis also?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI):

(a) and (b) The performance of the Shipping Corporation of India during 1972-73 can be considered to be satisfactory

The oil crisis which developed towards the end of 1973 led to a serious shortage of availability of bunkers as also to a steep rise in bunker prices the world over. This affected all shipping companies in the world including the Shipping Corporation. There was, however, no set-back as such in the performance of the Shipping Corporation.

CENTRAL GUIDELINES ON LAND CEILING

*601. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Centre on land ceiling for the whole country; and

(b) the names of States which have adopted them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha. [Placed in library. See No. LT. 6642/74].