

Regarding the Master Plan of the Bombay Harbour, I am sure the hon. Member is aware that Neva Sheva scheme is awaiting clearance from the Planning Commission and when it is cleared, we shall take it up. As a result of that, Bombay port will be developed.

Stock of Foodgrains at Fair Price Shops in Gujarat

*251. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that fair price shops in Gujarat are short of grain stocks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). Towards the end of the year the Government of India had received request from the State Government to release additional quantity of foodgrains from the Central stocks. The allotment of foodgrains which were reduced with the arrival of Kharif crops in the market, were increased to the extent possible, considering the shortfall in procurement by the State Government inspite of a much better crop than in the previous year. The total quantity supplied to the State Government during the year 1973 was 7.9 lakh tonnes as against 3.1 lakh tonnes in the previous year. The allotment made for the month of February, 1974, was higher than the quantity released in February, 1973, which was the drought affected period.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Gujarat had floods and vast areas and large acreage of agricultural lands were submerged and crops were destroyed. It is a known fact. What were the quantities of flood-relief supplies of foodgrains sent during October, November and December of last year and what were the quantities sent in the previous year? In other words, I want the figures for the year 1973, October-

November and December and 1972 October, November and December despatches.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: I have already indicated that so far as the supply of foodgrains in 1973 was concerned it was much higher than in 1972 and as the hon. Member wants to know the quantities of foodgrains supplied in the month of October, November and December, I may point out to him that in the month of October 1973 the foodgrains supplied to Gujarat were 58,000 tonnes and in November it was 36,000 tonnes and in December it was 36,000 tonnes. This was due to the fact that the kharif crop was much better than last year and therefore considering availability of foodgrains in Gujarat the quantity was reduced. When the State Government pointed out that it was not possible for them to procure as they expected we increased the quantity in January to 50,000, in February to 52,000 and in March to 52,000 tonnes.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: The previous State Government had conducted a large number of raids and subsequently during the Governor's rule a large number of raids were carried out for collection of levies. What was the exact quantity the raids had yielded? Why did it suddenly become possible and even necessary to despatch large quantities of foodgrains? Where the estimates made by the Government incorrect? If so for future assessments would they not develop more accurate methods for obtaining reliable figures in respect of actual production in agriculture?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: In spite of flood, may I point out that so far as the production of kharif crop is concerned, in Gujarat, the total quantity of foodgrains was nearly 23.44 lakhs as against 15 lakhs of the earlier years and it was better than in the previous year. And, if the hon. Member will compare the allotment which we made last year, he would see that it is much better than the previous year.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: My question is not answered. The figure of produc-

tion is obviously not dependable. I have made out a reference about the levy raids by the previous Ministry and under the Governor's rule. What has been the levy collected? Why could the levy quantities not be had by either of the Governments if this production was already there?

SHRI F. A. AHMED. I have already pointed out that these figures are obtained from the State Government on the basis of which I am quoting the figures of production.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Sir, just before the removal of the ban on inter-State movement of coarsegrains, Gujarat Government purchased 50,000 tonnes of bajra. But, Government of India did not allow the movement. May I know from the hon. Minister why, at that time the Government of India did not allow the Government of Gujarat? Secondly, till to-day, there is no stock in the fair price shops in the rural areas. May I know from him what steps Government want to take to make equitable distribution of foodgrains to the State of Gujarat?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: The hon. Member is aware that the movement of coarsegrains was restricted till it was withdrawn recently. Therefore, if any foodgrains had been purchased from places other than Gujarat, then they could not be moved until that restriction was withdrawn. It was withdrawn only recently.

So far as inter-state movement Act was concerned, we removed the restriction only very recently. So far as coarsegrains are concerned, they can move the same from one place to the other. My information is that the situation with regard to the supply of foodgrains has improved considerably and the prices have also come down in Gujarat.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: But, there is no equitable distribution made in rural areas and hence there is spurt in stocks of foodgrains in fair price shops. I have come from that area only yesterday and I knew the position very well. That is why I have put this question

to you. The Minister has not replied to that.

DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA: May I know from the hon Minister categorically whether it is inefficient and corrupt distribution of foodgrains that has led to the shortage of foodgrains in the fair price shops?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: The hon. Member will realise that so far as the Central Government is concerned, it can give foodgrains out of the Central Pool having regard to the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool and having regard to the requirements of the State in a particular year. So far as production is concerned, it is much better now than last year. Foodgrains were available within the State naturally, we had to reduce the allotment in order to make it up during the lean months when it is liable to be changed in Gujarat as well as in other States.

DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA: I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether it is inefficient and corrupt distribution system that has led to the shortage of foodgrains in the fair price shops.

MR. SPEAKER: You will have enough of discussion to-day and you can prove that.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA: I would like to know from the Minister whether, in view of the better crops last year the deficit in Gujarat was only marginal, and whether the Centre has made it clear to the State Government that if it fails to procure, it has no right to claim enough food stocks from the Central Pool. In that case, did the Central Government compel the State Government to procure adequate stocks?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: So far as deficit is concerned, that can only be considered after the quantity available during the rabi crop is known. But I can assure the House that so far as kharif crop is concerned, that was an abnormal crop. One could expect

that if the procurement had been done properly, there would have been no such demand from the Central Government for the allotment of grains to Gujarat. Every time when the Ministers came, and saw me, I told that they should also discharge their duties and responsibilities to procure more so that the availability of foodgrains may be there and there may be difficulty so far as distribution is concerned.

श्री अरविन्द एम पटेल राज्य सरकार ने बाजरे आदि मोटे अनाजों की कितनी लेवी लेने का लक्ष्य अपने सामने रखा था और केन्द्रीय सरकार को बताया था और उस में वह कहां तक सफल हुई है ?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : एग्जैक्ट फिगरज तो मुझे मालूम नहीं है लेकिन मैंने सुना है कि सोलह या सतरह हजार टन बाजार यहां से खरीद लिया गया है और वहां चला गया है ।

SHRI VASANT SATHÉ: He wants to know about the procurement figure.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: I have not got the figures. But, their procurement is practically negligible. I think they have procured from 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes of rice and a few thousand tonnes of coarse grains.

श्रीमती सहोबरा बाई राव : मध्य प्रदेश में नर्मदा नदी की बाढ़ की वजह से होशंगाबाद जिला पूरा डूब गया था, वह गया था और डूब गया था । उसके वास्ते आप ने क्या किया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप कहां से कहां पहुंच गई हैं । यह इस में नहीं आता है ।

Construction of "Kerala House in New Delhi

*254. **SHRI RAMCHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI:**
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the Minister of **WORKS AND HOUSING** be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions under which the Government of Kerala has been allowed to construct the "Kerala House" in New Delhi; and

(b) whether this agreement differs from other agreements under which sanction has been given to other State Governments to build State Guest Houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The land under premises No. 3, Jantar Mantar Road, New Delhi, now called 'Kerala House' was purchased by the erstwhile State of Travancore and Cochin from Sardar Sobha Singh, the original lessee and is now held on the same terms and conditions by the Government of Kerala, successors-in-interest of the erstwhile State of Travancore and Cochin. The most important condition of the lease is that the lessee cannot, without obtaining the previous consent of the lessor, make any alteration in the plan or elevation of the buildings or carry on or permit to be carried on, on the said premises, any trade or business whatsoever, or use the same or permit the same to be used for any purpose other than that of a residence.

(b) Yes, Sir.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: The statement admits that the land was purchased not leased and in view of the fact that this is under the possession of the State Government may I know from the hon. Minister what provision prevents the State Government from increasing the facilities there and developing for better service of the State interest.

SHRI OM MEHTA: The land was purchased from one private individual, Sardar Sobha Singh and one of the terms of the lease was: