

**Relaxation in specification for procurement of rain-soaked wheat in northern region**

\*1317. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India have relaxed the specification of wheat for the purpose of procurement to help buy rain-soaked wheat in the northern region;

(b) if so, the total quantity of such grains that have been procured; and

(c) how much of this has been/can be salvaged and that which cannot be salvaged?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE)** : (a) The Government have relaxed specifications for wheat to enable the Food Corporation of India to purchase rain affected wheat.

(b) According to the information available a total quantity of 5,60,080 tonnes of rain affected wheat conforming to relaxed specifications have been purchased.

(c) Stocks which are fit for human consumption, only have been purchased under relaxed specification. Such stocks do not require salvaging.

**Loss incurred by Rourkela Steel Plant**

\*1318. **SHRI S. S. MOHAPATRA** : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total loss incurred by Rourkela Steel Plant due to strike by Traffic Department last year; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to avoid the loss ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM)** : (a) Hindustan Steel Ltd., have estimated that the strike by workers of the Traffic Department of Rourkela Steel Plant in June, 1970 resulted in loss of production of the order of 47,400 tonnes of ingot steel.

(b) The Management made every effort to bring the strike to an end.

**Central aid to Andhra Pradesh for development of fisheries during Fourth Plan**

\*1319. **SHRI B. S. MURTHY** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total financial aid to be given to Andhra Pradesh for the development of fisheries during the Fourth Plan Period;

(b) the number of scheme where such aid operates ; and

(c) the progress of the schemes ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SINDE)** : (a) An outlay of Rs. 150 lakhs has been earmarked for development of Fisheries in the Fourth Five Year Plan of Andhra Pradesh. Central assistance to State Plan Schemes during the Fourth Plan is provided in the form of block grants and loans for the plan as a whole, the State receiving 30% of the total assistance every year as grant and the remaining 70% as loan.

Besides, the Central Government also meets in full the cost of construction of fishing harbours. There is no State-wise allotment of funds for fishing harbours. Engineering and economic studies of potential harbour sites are carried out and harbours are sanctioned on the basis of detailed project reports.

(b) and (c). The State Government's Fourth Plan contains 16 fisheries schemes of which some of the important ones are :— (i) Development of Marine Centre at Kakinada under which mechanised boats are constructed and issued, (ii) improvement of fish farms and nurseries, and production of fish seed and (iii) issue of loans to fishermen's cooperatives. In the first two years of the plan 27 boats have been constructed under the first scheme. Improvements to several fish farms and nurseries have been carried out in Anantapur District and elsewhere at a cost of Rs. 9,261 lakhs. Loans to fishermen and Zilla Parishads totalling Rs. 5.23 lakhs were given for Zilla Parishad, Kurapal, and for purchase and distribution of fishery requisites. So far as the Central Schemes