

of Jammu & Kashmir. However, a proposal for the amendment of the Act is under consideration of the Central Government. The remaining three State Governments have not taken any steps so far to set up State warehousing Corporations.

**Central Assistance to Orissa Due to Drought**

\*324. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether drought conditions are prevailing in some parts of Orissa State ;

(b) If so, the areas involved;

(c) whether State Government have sought any assistance from the Centre ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b) . The Government of Orissa has reported prevalence of drought conditions in some parts of Koraput, Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Ganjam, Puri and Bolangir districts.

(c) No. Sir, The State Government has not sought any Central financial assistance.

(d) Does not arise.

**Introduction Of Crop Insurance Scheme**

\*325. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce Crop Insurance ;

(b) if so, which particular crop has been selected ; and

(c) whether this will be localised to a particular State or spread over the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

**Delay In Completing Tuticorin Harbour Project**

\* 326. SHRI M.M. JOSEPH : will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any delay in completing the Tuticorin Harbour Project ; and

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) and (b). The major works under execution at Tuticorin relate to the formation of the South and the North Breakwater construction of one Pier-head in the South Breakwater and two Pier-heads in the North Breakwater, construction of a Wharf Wall and Dredging and Reclamation of the Wharf Wall area. The works were scheduled to be completed by about middle of 1973. The contractor for this work has not maintained the progress as planned. He has asked for extension of time up to October, 1973 for completion of the works. Government are considering his request for extension of time in the context of the difficulties explained by the contractor.

**British aid for Building a Cargo ship by Scottish Firm**

\*327. SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : SHRI SARJOO PANDEY :

will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks were held regarding the British aid allocation of funds to finance the building of a giant cargo ship for India by a Scottish firm; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?