

and 5th September, 1973 when it was near the South East African coast.

(b) No investigation into the cause of the fire was made by the Director General of Shipping as the vessel is a foreign one and the fire accident took place in foreign waters.

(c) Does not arise.

Freeze on Price of Farm Inputs

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

(a) whether a proposal has been submitted to Government to freeze prices of farm inputs in the country;

(b) if so, the main points thereof;

(c) the time by which Government propose to take necessary steps in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which such a freeze will bring down the prices of foodgrains?

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

(a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Cochin Shipyard's contract with U.K. Firm

*120. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Shipyard entered into a contract with the U.K. firm of Scott Lithgow Limited for technical assistance in building of ships and training the Shipyard's personnel in ship building; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In accordance with the agreement M/s. Scott. Lithgow Ltd. will provide necessary technical documentation and consultancy service for the building of the first ship of 75,000 DWT by the Cochin Shipyard. They will also train certain personnel of Cochin Shipyard in their Kingston Shipbuilding Yard. In consideration for the services rendered by M/s. Scott Lithgow Ltd., the Cochin Shipyard has to pay a sum of £ 760,333 in addition to the salaries of their consultants who will be posted at Cochin, which are estimated at £ 350,000 in foreign currency plus Rs. 15,20,000 in Indian Currency.

Introduction of Irrigation (Pumping) Scheme on Barges

1002. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Irrigation (Pumping) Scheme on barges is successful;

(b) whether it can be done only on perennial rivers;

(c) whether Government is thinking of introducing such schemes all over the country; and

(d) if so, whether there is any likelihood of giving priority to such schemes in the Fifth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Lift irrigation schemes constructed on barges are successful.

(b) It can be done successfully on perennial as well as subperennial rivers.