

(b) whether Government are aware of the herculean efforts being made in Madras to substantially boost the output of foodgrains within a short span of one year, and

(c) if so, whether the promised quota of fertiliser will be made available to them at the right time?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir An additional allotment of 10 000 tonnes of Nitrogen has been made to Madras State for the period July to September, 1967 to meet the needs of additional areas brought under the High-Yielding Varieties Programme in that State

(c) Yes, Sir

#### Re-Routing of Suez Bound Ships

\*1064 Shri Kameshwar Singh.  
Shri Sequeira:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to see that the re-routing of Suez bound ships does not disrupt unloading due to congestion in our ports, with special reference to food shipments, and

(b) if so, the week-wise arrivals of food shipments expected at each of the major ports in the next eight weeks and the steps taken to ensure speedy and regular unloading?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b) Because of the closure of the Suez Canal and delay in the arrival of vessels on the high seas which had to be re-routed via the Cape of Good Hope, bunching of vessels at the various ports is expected particularly during the second week of July 1967. This was unavoidable. The total handling capacity at our different ports even during the monsoon months being between 8 lakhs and 9 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains, a few vessels may experience delays in

berthing. No insurmountable difficulties in handling the major portion of these arrivals are, however, anticipated. Steps will be taken to secure more berths for foodgrains vessels at the major ports and also to take up over-side and mid-stream discharge of some of the foodgrains vessels in order to step up the handling capacity at the ports. Almost all the ports in the country, where foodgrains vessels can be handled even during the monsoons, will be fully utilised. A statement is laid on the table of the House showing the expected week-wise arrivals of food shipments at each of the ports during the month of July 1967 [Placed in Library See No LT-979/67]. Such information about the arrivals during the month of August 1967 is not fully available at yet.

#### Purchase of Wheat from Australia

\*1065 Shri Shiva Chandra Jha:  
Shri Y S Kushwah:  
Shri Y. A. Prasad:  
Shri D C Sharma:  
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.  
Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:  
Shri Ram Avtar Sharma:  
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:  
Shri Atam Das:  
Shri Raghuvir Singh Shastri:  
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadoria:  
Shri Ramji Ram:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase wheat from Australia,

(b) if so the quantity thereof and the terms of the purchase, and

(c) when the wheat will arrive in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c) Government have purchased during this year so far 183 thousand tons of wheat commercially from Australia on short