

**Rigs and Drilling Equipment for Bihar**

\*461. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**  
**Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri George Fernandes:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any allocations were made by the U.S. Government from its contingency fund for buying rigs and drilling equipment for the famine-stricken areas of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such sets and their total value;

(c) whether it is a fact that the equipment was to be airlifted by the Indian Government/Air India between 22nd to 26th March, 1967;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government/Air India have defaulted on this;

(e) if so, the reason for this default; and

(f) the effect of this on the famine areas of Bihar?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). The USAID offered early this year to supply spare parts worth about Rs. 1,75,000/- for eight of the rigs operating in the drought affected areas of Bihar. The total weight of the spare parts was 28,000 lbs. and USAID had made arrangements to transport 20,000 lbs. to India by air on commercial terms. Air India, was directed to airlift the balance 8,000 lbs. on space availability basis. No specific date was laid down by which Air India should complete the airlifting of these 8,000 lbs. of spares. This consignment was actually received in May, 1967.

(d) There was no default on the part of the Government of India or Air India.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

**Air-Fares**

\*462. **Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:**  
**Shri B. S. Sharma:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Madhu Limaye:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri S. M. Joshi:**  
**Shri George Fernandes:**  
**Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:**  
**Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:**  
**Shri Mohan Swarup:**  
**Shri S. K. Tapuriah:**  
**Shri Girraj Saran Singh:**  
**Shri Meetha Lal:**  
**Shri Tridib Kumar**  
**Chaudhuri:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:**  
**Shri Dhirendranath:**  
**Shri Bishwanath Roy:**  
**Shri P. K. Deo:**  
**Shri H. Ajmal Khan:**  
**Shri D. N. Patodia:**  
**Shri K. P. Singh Deo:**

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation has sought Government's approval to an upward revision of fares on all routes; and

(b) if so, the decision taken and the reasons for increase?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b). The Indian Airlines Corporation have submitted proposals for increasing their passenger and freight rates. The proposals are under examination.

**Diversion of Land to Cash Crops**

\*463. **Shri Abdul Ghandi Dar:**  
**Shri Ram Gopal Shalwale:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that cultivators are diverting their lands to cash crops like jute and tobacco; and

(b) if so, the facilities being given to the farmers to divert them from cash crops and put their lands under food production?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) A statement showing the area under Jute, tobacco and cotton for the years 1961-62 to 1965-66 is attached. This does not show diversion of land to cash crops

like jute and tobacco. This is borne out by subsequent trends also.

(b) Agriculture has to be viewed as a whole to meet the needs of the country in respect of commercial crops as well as food crops. With the new approach linked with multiple cropping there is less possibility of one crop being diverted at the expense of the other. Every effort is being made to popularise cash crops within a rotation with food crops.

## STATEMENT

*Area under Commercial crops*

(Area in ,000 hectares)

Crops	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66
Cotton	7,978	7,845	8,160	8,271	7,827
Jute	917	851	868	839	748
Tobacco	418	416	44	394	345

**Reduction in Food Ration**

\*464. Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri S. N. Maiti:

Shri A. K. Kishn:

Shri Tridib Kumar

Chaudhuri:

Shri Yashpal Singh:

Shri Bhogendra Jha:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the reduction in the quantum of food ration, people have to supplement it by purchases in the black-market at higher rates;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to ensure that foodstuffs are sold at the controlled rates only; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to take up State trading in the foodgrains?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b). In statutorily rationed areas rationed foodgrains are available only under rationing at prescribed rates. Non-rationed foodgrains are available in

the open market. The purchases of these foodgrains if necessary can be made from the open market.

(c) The Government have already undertaken partial State trading in foodgrains. Total monopoly of the State in foodgrains trade is not contemplated at present.

**Statistics about Food Production**

\*465. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that estimates of the statistics on food production made by the different State Governments and the Centre vary from each other widely; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to improve the reliability of food statistics in the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Under the existing system of crop estimation the official all-India Final Estimates of production of foodgrains are ar-