

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या दूध तथा मक्खन आदि के उत्पादन में कमी होने के परिणाम स्वरूप खाद्यान्न की खपत में वृद्धि हुई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सारे देश में दूध तथा मक्खन आदि के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए गत पांच वर्षों में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा रूढ़ि-कार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अन्ना साहिब शिन्दे) : (क) यही भारत सरकार को संयुक्त राष्ट्र के खाद्य एवं कृषि संगठन का हाल ही का वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। अतः प्रतिवेदन के विषय में कोई टिप्पणी करना सम्भव नहीं है।

(ख) से (घ) . प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

Transshipment of Food from U.S.A.

*769. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the closure of the Suez Canal, Government propose to make arrangements for transshipment of food from USA through the land in the American continent and then via Pacific route;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for expediting the shipment via that route; and

(c) if not, what are the difficulties?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). The immediate impact of the closure of the Suez Canal with effect from the 6th June, 1967 has been on the food

vessels which were on the high seas on that date and were to come to Indian ports via the Suez Canal. The delay involved in the arrival of these vessels consequent on their re-routing via the Cape of Good Hope has affected the availabilities of foodgrains during the second half of the month of June and the first half of the month of July. There was no possibility of meeting these shortfalls from any source during this period because of the time factor. Even transshipment of food from USA through the land route in the American continent to the Pacific Coast and the shipments via the Pacific route, as suggested, would not have made the arrivals of foodgrains possible at Indian ports during the crucial period.

Famines

*770. Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have analysed the causes which have led to famines of unprecedented nature in the last few years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to combat them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No elaborate studies are considered necessary to determine the causes of the serious scarcity conditions that developed in large parts of the country during 1965, 1966 and 1967. These were due to failure of rains and the consequential drought in the areas concerned.

(b) The Central and State Governments have organised extensive relief operations to mitigate the distress caused by drought and scarcity. Measures are also being taken to increase agricultural production throughout the country including the areas that have suffered from drought in recent years.