

be operated by the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. wanted to have a rise in fares as far back as 1960. Then, a committee was appointed under Shri P. S. Rao to go into the whole question, and the committee made a number of recommendations, one for an immediate rise in fares by 8 per cent, then the grant of an interest-free loan to the company for purchase of new ships, grant of a direct subsidy by the Maharashtra Government equal to the interest foregone by the Central Government, and then a further rise in fares by 7 per cent after the new ships arrived. Then, the Maharashtra Government were not anxious to see any rise in fares because the interest of the labour population was involved in the Bombay city. Therefore, they said they would be prepared to pay a subsidy also in lieu of the rise in fares. Subsequently there has been some trouble about the payment of subsidy. Some subsidy was paid, but all the subsidy that has been claimed has not been paid. Now the BSN Company have instituted a suit for the recovery of something like Rs. 22 lakhs as balance of subsidy for 1961-62 and subsidy for 1962-63. The case is now *sub judice* and the Maharashtra Government and the Government of India are jointly preparing their reply.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Minor Irrigation Projects in Drought-affected States

\*236 Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the special amount of money given and earmarked for the drought-affected States for small irrigation projects, tube wells, wells and pumping sets etc.;

(b) whether the work in the drought-affected areas is going on according to the schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha [Placed in Library. See No. LT-207/67].

##### Fertilisers for Tea Industry

\*237 Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Association of India has opposed the increase in the selling price of fertilizers, especially sulphate of ammonia, supplied to the tea industry with effect from the 1st February, 1967;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Fertilizer Association of India has not sent any representation opposing the increase in the selling price of fertilizers. But the Tea Association of India has in a memorandum addressed to Ministry of Commerce opposed the increase in selling prices of fertilizers supplied to the Tea Industry from 1st February, 1967.

(b) and (c). The representation of Tea Association of India is under examination and a decision thereon will be communicated to them in due course.

##### Deficit of Rice in India

\*238 Dr. Karni Singh:  
Shri C. Janardhanan:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India's rice deficit is more than the total world exports;