

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;

(b) the specific steps being taken to increase internal production of rice; and

(c) the proposals to reach self-sufficiency in the production of rice and meanwhile to meet the shortages in the country?

The Minister of State in The Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) In view of the fact that requirements of any particular foodgrain depend upon a number of factors such as availability, prices, levels of income etc., and also that there is some inter-changeability for consumption between one grain and another depending upon the supply position in each year, it is not possible to give a precise estimate of the rice deficit of the country in any particular year. It may, however, be stated that the production of rice in the country during 1965-66 was 8.4 million tonnes less than that in 1964-65 while the total world exports of rice (excluding China) during 1965 amounted to 6.5 million tonnes.

(b) and (c). Steps have been taken to secure significant and rapid increases in the production of rice through the introduction of High-yielding Varieties like T.N.J., T-65, Tainan-3, ADT-27 and also some other local varieties which have proved to be responsive to high levels of fertilisation. The programme was initiated from *khariif* season 1966-67 when about 1.26 million acres were covered. In addition about 2.03 million acres are expected to be covered during *Rabi* summer season 1966-67. For the next year, the targets are 4.10 million acres during *khariif* and 2.01 million acres during *rabi* summer season.

Arrangements have been made to meet fully the requirements of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc. for this programme. In regard to credit, the Reserve Bank of India have sanctioned special credit limits to the State Govts. to meet the increased requirements of short term credit. The

State Govts. have also made arrangements to give *taccavi* loans to supplement the cooperative line of credit.

Besides the above mentioned programme, the other general programmes of development such as Minor Irrigation, Soil Conservation, strengthening supply of fertilisers, manures and plant protection have been further intensified with a view to obtain quick results which also help to raise production of rice.

The measures taken to meet the present shortages have been indicated in detail in the Review of Food and Scarcity Situation in India published by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture and already placed on the Table of the Sabha.

डा० धर्म तेजा के विरुद्ध कानूनी कार्यवाही

239. श्री अश्व निमये : क्या परिवहन तथा नौबहन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार ने जयन्ती शिपिंग कम्पनी के डा० धर्म तेजा के विरुद्ध हाल के महीने में कोई कानूनी कार्यवाही शुरू की है ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो इसके सम्बन्ध में वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है ; और

(ग) इस दिशा में भविष्य में सरकार का क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

परिवहन तथा नौबहन मंत्री (डा० बी० के० धार० बी० राव) : (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) और (ग) तथा पटल पर एक विवरण प्रस्तुत है। [पुस्तकालय में रखा गया देखिये संख्या एच० टी० 208/67]

Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam

*240. श्री Teaneti Vishwanatham: श्री Tridib Kumar Chaudhury:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay scales of the staff working in the