

खण्डों में धनाज का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए कारगर उपाय किये गये हैं ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उनका व्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इस मन्दर्भ में इन विकास खण्डों की क्या उपयोगिता है ?

साख, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री अन्नासाहू शिन्डे) : (क) और (ख). खाद्यान्नों की उपज को अधिकतम बढ़ाने के उपाय, चाहे वे सामान्य, सघन अथवा प्रापञ्चकालीन कार्यक्रमों के अन्तर्गत हैं, खण्ड संगठन जो सभी उत्पादन कार्यक्रमों के लिए फील्ड स्तर की एजेंसी है, के माध्यम से क्रियान्वित किए जाते हैं। परिणामस्वरूप, सामुदायिक विकास खण्डों तथा पंचायतीराज संस्थाओं को खाद्य उत्पादन बढ़ाने के कार्य में लगाया गया है। अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ यह कृषि उत्पादन के लिए साधनों में बढ़ोत्तरी करके, जिसमें खण्ड योजना बजट के अन्तर्गत अधिक धनराशि लेना शामिल है, ग्राम स्तरीय कार्यकर्ताओं को केवल कृषि कार्य सौंप कर कृषि में कार्यभारी विस्तार अधिकारियों की पूरी संख्या बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता पर बल देकर तथा जहां आवश्यकता हो वहां कार्यक्रमों की गहनता के अनुसार उनकी संख्या बढ़ाकर, विस्तार कार्यकर्ताओं की कार्यात्मक कुशलता में सुधार करने तथा किसानों को उन्नत तरीकों को अपनाने की दिशा में शिक्षित करने के लिए प्रशिक्षण प्रबन्धों में तेजी लाकर और उपलब्ध आवश्यक साधनों के वितरण के उचित प्रबन्धों की पुनः परीक्षा करते रह कर प्राप्त किया गया है ; पंचायतीराज संस्थाओं को अधिकधिक रूप से इस प्रयत्न में शामिल किया गया है।

(घ) इनकी बढ़ती उदरता।

River Steam Navigation Co.

*249. Shri Dhireswar Kalia:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

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

(a) whether Government have finalised the proposal to reorganise the River Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether the services of all the present employees will be taken as a continued service; and

(d) whether Government have received any memorandum from the River Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., and Indian General Navigation and Rai'way Co. Ltd., Workers' Union, Assam (Gauhati) in this regard?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b). No Sir. Government have however evolved certain proposals in this regard and a Scheme under Section 391 of the Companies Act read with Sections 392-394 has been filed by the River Steam Navigation Company Limited in the Calcutta High Court for effecting a settlement with its secured and unsecured creditors and the transfer of its assets to a new Company. The matter is now before the Calcutta High Court.

(c) As the matter is now before a Court it is not possible to give an indication at this stage.

(d) Yes Sir.

Calcutta Port

*251. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the volume of cargo handled at Calcutta

Port during the seven months following devaluation of the rupee has shown a decline compared with the five months preceding devaluation;

(b) whether this fall in traffic was due to lower exports or lower imports, or both, and of which principal commodities;

(c) whether the Calcutta Port authorities have been given permission to raise their port charges in order to maintain their revenues; and

(d) the probable long-term effects of such a decision?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) One effect would be the stabilisation of the financial position of the Calcutta Port Commissioners and their consequent ability to operate at their existing level of efficiency. As far as the long term effects are concerned, no serious consequences are anticipated. The position will, however, be kept under review.

Consumer and Department Stores

*252. Shri M. N. Naghnoor: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the organisation of 'Consumer Stores' and 'Department Stores' has helped to reduce the market rates of commodities;

(b) the action taken to ensure twenty per cent of production of consumer goods for distribution through the consumer co-operatives; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action to launch a programme of manufacture/processing of consumer articles to ensure quality goods at fair prices to the consumers?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community, Development and Cooperation (Shri

Annasahib Shinde): (a) The wholesale consumer stores and department stores have definitely exercised a restraining influence on the retail distributive trade.

(b) There was no intention to distribute 20 per cent of the production of consumer goods through the consumer cooperatives. The objective of the consumer cooperatives is to capture 20 per cent of the retail trade in areas served by them by the end of the Fourth Plan with a view to making an impact on prices.

(c) With a view to reducing their dependence on private manufacturers and to ensure reasonable prices, the Government have decided to assist consumer cooperatives to set up manufacturing and processing units for various consumer commodities.

Supply of Foodgrains to Gujarat

*253. Shri Indulal Yajnik: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had agreed to secure the necessary stocks of cereals and other foodgrains for Gujarat from other States before the Gujarat State was persuaded to lift the ban on the export of edible oil;

(b) whether Government had succeeded in securing such foodgrains for Gujarat from other States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Gujarat is deficit in foodgrains and are receiving supplies from Central Government. No assurance was, however, given to the State Government to secure any stocks of foodgrains from other States for persuading them to lift the ban on the export of edible oil.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.