

ready within one or two months. After the estimate is ready, how long will the Government take to sanction it, and how long will it take to complete the project?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The Port Trust authorities of Calcutta are supposed to prepare this estimate, and naturally as soon as they submit their estimate, it will be sanctioned and I do not think there will be delay in sanctioning the project, because we are ourselves anxious to see that fishing harbours are developed on the eastern coast including West Bengal.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : May I know from the Minister whether they are going to undertake any such project near Nellore District at Sriharikota?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : May I seek your protection? I have all sympathy for him, and I can only say that if minor harbour projects are submitted by the Andhra Government, we will consider them sympathetically because 100 per cent assistance goes from the Centre for the development of minor harbours.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Scarcity of Vanaspati Ghee in Delhi

*755. **SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :**
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :
SHRI VALMIKI CHOU-DHARY :
SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the scarcity of Vanaspati in Delhi ;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the mills of the vanaspati to improve the supply position of vanaspati in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

(SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scarcity is understood to be due to the curtailment of production by some of the factories for varying periods during March due to rising oil prices.

(c) The matter has been discussed with the representatives of the industry and it is expected that the supply position will be normalised in the near future.

Mortgage of Children for Paddy in Assam

*756. **SHRI R. K. BIRLA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of foodgrains in certain parts of Assam ;

(b) whether it is a fact that distressed persons either have sold or mortgaged their children for some paddy in the month of February this year ;

(c) if so, the number of such cases during the last three months; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to meet the shortage of food in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) So far as Government are aware, the food position in Assam is quite satisfactory.

(b) The State Government have reported that they have no knowledge of any such happening.

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

होशंगाबाद तथा पूर्वी निमाड (मध्य प्रदेश) में सिंचाई सुविधाओं की कमी तथा सूखे के कारण फसल को हानि

*757. श्री एं० च० दीक्षित : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क.) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश के होशंगाबाद तथा पूर्वी निमाड जिले में सिंचाई सुविधाओं की कमी और सूखे के कारण फसलों को हानि हुई है ;