

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 ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो हानि का व्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उक्त जिलों या उनके कुछ भागों को अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषित किया गया है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन क्षेत्रों के नाम क्या हैं ?

साथ, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अग्ना-साहिब शिन्डे) : (क) और (ख). राज्य सरकार से मांगी गयी जानकारी की अभी प्रतीक्षा है ।

(ग) जी नहीं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं होता ।

Propaganda Materials Circulated by USSR and USA to Indian Dailies and Weeklies

*759. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. circulate regular propaganda materials to different dailies and weeklies;

(b) if so, the names of the dailies and weeklies which received and printed such propaganda materials ; and

(c) the amount paid for printing such propaganda materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign missions are not required to submit to the Government of India the names of newspapers to which they send their publicity material.

(c) This Ministry are not aware of payments made to Indian newspapers by foreign missions for publishing press releases. But the foreign missions do buy advertisement space in Indian newspapers for publicity campaigns.

Suggestions by British Economist on efforts to make small Farming Successful

*760. SHRI N. R. LASKAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sir John Hicks, a renowned British economist has stressed the need for big organisational efforts to make small farming successful in the country ;

(b) if so, the other points made by him in address during the three day Seminar ;

(c) whether he has stated that the land reforms, even if they are completed, would not alone solve the problem; and

(d) whether Government have examined his suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (d). The recommendations of the Seminar held by Indian Social Institute, a non-official organisation, on 'Challenge of Poverty in India' have not been received by the Government so far. Hence it is not possible to indicate the specific suggestions made at the Seminar and the reactions of the Government thereon.

Winding up of Central Fisheries Corporation, Howrah

*761. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to wind up the Central Fisheries Corporation, Ltd. Howrah on the plea of losses ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Corporation actually never took up various activities, viz., deep-sea fishing, installation of plants for cold storage, curing and canning of fish, which were proclaimed as its objectives in the Memorandum of Association ;

(c) whether, any efforts were made to maintain and expand the Corporation's activities in co-operation with the West Bengal State Government ; and

(d) in the event of the Corporation's closure, what alternative arrangements