

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-888/67].

Hindustan Shipyard

***921. Shri R. Barua:** Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken several measures to reorganise the set-up of the Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the broad details of the decisions taken or proposed to be taken in this regard and the results to be achieved thereby?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Shipping (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the steps taken by Government in this regard is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-889/67].

Black-marketing by Sugar Mills

***922. Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the Uttar Pradesh Food Minister's statement in the Legislative Assembly recently that sugar mills indulge in black-marketing; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shine): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The matter was referred to the Government of Uttar Pradesh who have reported that their Food Minister's statement was based on informal information and not on official reports. The State Government is being asked

to make an investigation into this complaint.

Crop Insurance Scheme

***923. Shri S. S. Basi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently consulted the State Governments regarding their views on the introduction of Crop Insurance Scheme in their respective regions;

(b) if so, the names of States which have opposed this Scheme and the basis thereof; and

(c) how this scheme will prove useful in the context of the present food situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b). A pilot scheme of Crop Insurance has been prepared and a Bill for introduction of compulsory crop insurance has also been drafted. Copies of the Model Scheme and the draft Bill have only recently been forwarded to the State Governments for their views. Comments of the State Governments are awaited.

(c) The basic principle underlying Crop Insurance is to afford protection to farmers in a particular area against crop losses due to natural hazards, such as drought, floods, cyclones, hail and insect infestation. By giving security against such crop risks, the scheme is intended not only to provide incentive for increased food production, but also to alleviate economic distress through payment of indemnities so as to enable cultivators to engage in agricultural operations in a season following a bad harvest. Also it visualizes measures to reduce the intensity of such hazards by encouraging adoption of improved agricultural practices.