

Manager, Food Corporation of India, Kandla was involved for misappropriating a sum of Rs. 4000/-. In the other case Shri G. L. Chopra and Shri B. L. Joshi, Cashier, Food Corporation of India, Kandla were jointly involved for misappropriating a sum of Rs. 2005/-. Both of them have been convicted. Shri Chopra has been dismissed from service w. e. f. 28.5.74. Shri Joshi has gone in appeal and is now under suspension. No other employee is facing prosecution.

(b) *Demurrage incurred :*

During the period from January, 1973 to August, 1974 the total demurrage paid at the Kandla port amounted to Rs. 1,49,77,487/- out of which Rs. 73,71,408/- were paid by the Food Corporation in respect of food-grains vessels while Rs. 76,06,079/- were paid by the Department of Agriculture on the fertilizers vessels handled by the Corporation on behalf of that Department.

Ship demurrage is paid when the total time taken in the berthing and unloading of vessels is more than the stipulated period according to the Charter Party terms. The main reasons for incurrence of demurrage have been bunching of vessels at Kandla Port which resulted in considerable detention to ships for berthing; occasional shortage of port cranes and wagons, strike/go-slow tactic by labour and the necessity to lighten cargo of big vessels such as tankers or bulk-carriers with higher drafts in stream resulting in longer waiting for vessels for berths.

(c) *Inland Transportation of Food in Kandla :*

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) *Disposal of damaged foodgrains :*

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) *Ignoring Instructions of the Head Office by the Local Officials :*

No general instructions have been issued by the Head Office regarding the disposal of milo refractions at a particular price. Only in one specific case of milo refractions, the Head Office had approved the rate of Rs. 45/- per quintal for supply to 'Amul Dairy'. The milo refractions when not required by the Government Agencies, is sold by tenders to the highest bidder according to the prescribed procedure.

**Wastage of Timber in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

\*596. SHRI M. P. VERMA :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over 2.5 lakh cubic meters of timber slippers are destroyed each year in the forests of Andaman and Nicobar Islands by fire;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop this heavy loss of timber; and

(c) whether Government propose to sanction long term forest leases to private entrepreneurs who may agree to put up timber-based industries in this territory in order to make use of the above resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Proposal of existing private industries for long term leases to meet their resource requirements for existing and expansion programmes are under consideration.

There is no proposal at present to give long term lease to new private entrepreneurs.

**Implementation of Pay Scales for Pharmacists**

\*597. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pay scales recommended by the Third Pay Commission have been implemented in respect of Pharmacists working in the C. G. H. S. dispensaries, hospitals, and in various dispensaries of the Central Government undertakings in the Capital ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of pharmacists stagnating at the maximum of the pay scales and how many pharmacists are likely to reach the maximum of the pay scales in the next two years; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH) : (a) The revised pay scale recommended by the Third Pay Commission in respect of Pharmacist Grade II in the C. G. H. S.