

by the Labour Minister, West Bengal, who had a series of discussions on the question of absorption of the retrenched workers with the F.C.I. Workers' Union, Calcutta.

Vessels lying unsalvaged under Farakka Barrage

353. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that seven vessels under Farakka Barrage sank down on 24th July, 1973 and these vessels are still unsalvaged; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not salvaging these vessels so far ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI K. N. SINGH) :

(a) and (b) The following five vessels of the Farakka Barrage Project along with their ancillaries sank in the river Ganga upstream and downstream of Farakka Barrage on the 24th July, 1973.

T.M. Ganga Barrage 2 Nos.

T.M. Jalsari 1 No.

200 T.H.L. Barrage 2 Nos.

These vessels could not be salvaged due to floods, unfavourable labour situation and the concentration of the work on the Feeder Canal. The salvaging operations are now in hand.

P.M.'s Warning on Dehoarding

354. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has recently warned the hoarders and big farmers to bring out their produce in the open market; and

(b) if so, what is the impact of Prime Minister's warning on dehoarding operations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The warning given by the Prime Minister and the action taken against hoarders is one of the contributory factors towards the fall of prices of foodgrains in the country.

Warning for Plant Protection

355. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently undertaken a survey of plant pests to give timely warning to farmers on diseases that destroy crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner the result of the survey is being made popular amongst the farmers; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure an adequate supply of plant protection chemicals for the survival of crops?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) : (a) and (b) The Dte. of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage under the Government of India have established 12 Central Surveillance Stations for surveying the occurrence of important insect pests and diseases of wheat, paddy, potato and sugarcane. Some of the State Governments have also established Surveillance Stations for one or more crops. In addition *ad hoc* surveys for rice pests are being conducted in Six States by the Dte. of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, in collaboration with State Governments, ICAR, Deptt. of Meteorology and Ford Foundation. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research in collaboration with the Dte. of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, the State Deptts. of Agriculture