

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken against persons responsible for this undervaluing of the gunny bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c) 2.5 lakh gunny bags were sold by auction at 87 paise per bag as 'C' class gunny at Moga on 9th October, 1973. Records indicate that only 1,91,287 bags pertained to 'C' category and the rest to 'B' category. The case has been referred to the C. B. I. for investigation.

Setting up of a Ship Repairing Project in Visakhapatnam Port

*370 SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ship repairing project proposed to be set up in Visakhapatnam Port has been under Government's consideration for a long time; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in taking a decision?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI): (a) No, Sir. However, the question of establishing additional shipyards, which may have ship repairing facilities, has been under consideration. The locations of the new shipyards have not yet been decided.

(b) A Techno-Economic Group of officers has evaluated the technical and economic aspects of various sites for locating additional shipyards. Negotiations have recently been held with certain foreign consultants for preparing Preliminary Project Reports on some of these sites. A decision regarding the location of the new shipyards (which may also have ship repairing facilities) will be taken after the receipt and evaluation of the Preliminary Project Reports.

Rotting of Foodgrains at Patna Railway Station

*371. SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inquiry into the rotting of about 13,000 bags of foodgrains at Patna Railway Station has been completed;

(b) if so, what is the result thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): (a) An inquiry was made into the circumstances under which a rake of 18 BOX Wagons loaded with imported wheat at Visakhapatnam for the F.C.I. Depot at Mokameh was diverted at the instance of the Food Corporation of India to their Digha depot but was placed by the Railway for unloading at Rajinder Nagar Goods Shed (in Patna area) on 6th May, 1974 instead of Digha Depot. The circumstances in which delay occurred in the unloading of the consignment and its removal from the Rajinder Nagar Goods Shed siding were also enquired into. Since there was no rotting of foodgrains, this aspect was not the subject of enquiry.

(b) and (c) As a result of the enquiry it has been agreed that, in future, specials of foodgrains destined to the F.C.I. depot at Digha will not be placed by the Railway for unloading at Rajinder Nagar Goods Shed where F.C.I. do not have facilities for unloading block rakes.

Fishing Harbour at Malpe in Karnataka

*372. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, Pre-Investment Survey of Fishing Harbours, has submitted a plan to the Central Government for an all weather fishing harbour for Malpe in Karnataka State; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to expedite the project?

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