

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The structures are to be demolished after these are vacated by the present occupants. The area is earmarked for recreational purposes in the Master Plan for Delhi. The expenditure involved in the scheme and the date by which it will be implemented cannot be estimated at present.

Vishakhapatnam Port

818. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Road Research Institute has objected to the stocking of iron ore at Vishakhapatnam Port beyond a height of 2.5 metres; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI) : (a) and (b) For iron ore shipment through the existing West Ore Berth in Inner Harbour, Vishakhapatnam, ore stocking was gradually raised to 5 metres by 1967 when sub-soil failure took place. The Central Road Research Institute who were approached in 1968 for advice in the matter, advised restrictions in heights varying from 2.5 to 4.5 metres. They also opined that further raising of heights could be considered after 1972. The existing stockpile capacity of 3 lakh tonnes is considered sufficient for the present throughput of 6 million tonnes per annum. No further soil investigation to increase the present stockpile heights is considered necessary.

Capacity of ore dumps is, however, being increased for the Outer Harbour and the adjacent areas are being artificially

consolidated. Additional stocking capacity will be 3 lakh tonnes in 1974 with initial loading height of 2.5 metres which will be increased to 4.5 metres finally in 1980, resulting in additional capacity of 5 lakh tonnes making the total capacity of 8 lakh tonnes.

Production of Foodgrains during Rabi Season

819. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI K. C. PANDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of foodgrains during the current Rabi season;

(b) whether foodgrains supply position in the country has improved and if so, to what extent; and

(c) if not, what efforts are being made by Government to ensure adequate food supply in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) and (b) The total output of rabi foodgrains during 1972-73 crop season is reported to be lower than the previous year and is estimated to be around 379.72 lakh tonnes.

(c) To ensure adequate food supplies in the country and also to improve availability of foodgrains, the following steps have been taken by the Government :

(1) Country-wide special efforts to raise the production of Kharif crop by increasing the area under high-yielding variety, promotion of effective utilisation of irrigation potential and balanced use of fertilizers and timely provision of credit.