

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, Visakhapatnam, 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.

(2) Increase in the procurement prices of kharif cereals and increase in the support prices of wheat as incentive for increased production and procurement.

(3) Import of limited quantity of food-grains.

(4) Acceptance of the loan of 2 million tonnes of wheat from the U.S.S.R. Government.

(5) Effective implementation of regulatory laws.

(6) Curbs on consumption of food-grains by strict enforcement of Guest Control Orders.

Procurement Price of Paddy

820. SHRI K. C. PANDA :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between the procurement price suggested by the Agricultural Prices Commission and the cost of production of paddy, separately on the basis of paid out costs and on input costs of family labour, rent and interest ; and

(b) whether there has been an increase in wages proportionate to the rise in the cost of paddy, if so to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Representative estimates of cost of production of paddy for different States, with detailed input-wise break-up, are not yet available. However, while recommending the procurement price for 1973-74 season, the Agricultural Prices Commission obtained the estimates of cost of production of paddy from the State Governments, which were found by it to converge, by and large, within the range of Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 per quintal and took into account other relevant factors. The Commission

recommended a procurement price of Rs. 63 per quintal for standard variety of paddy. As regards increase in wages proportionate to the rise in the cost of paddy, no such precise relationship can be established.

Setting up of Food Corporations by the States

821. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SHOWALESS K. SHILLA :
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :
DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have agreed to allow the States to set up their own Food Corporations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b) In the context of the need to assume greater responsibility by the State Governments in the procurement and distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities, the Central Government as such would have no objection to the setting up of separate Corporations/Undertakings by the State Governments, provided there was agreement regarding the supply to the Central Pool the contribution expected of them and absorption of the employees of the Food Corporation of India that would be rendered surplus in the process.

New Wiring System for Call Bells in M.P.s. Flats

822. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in North and South Avenue M.P.s. flats in New