

1970 to evolve uniform standard of education and maintain an All India Register of qualified practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine. Financial assistance is also being given to the Under-graduate Indian Systems of Medicine colleges run by Voluntary Organisations for the conduction of building and purchase of equipment.]

#### **SHORTAGE OF WHEAT AND RICE IN COAL MINING AREAS OF BIHAR AND WEST BENGAL**

573. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of wheat and rice in the coal mining areas of Bihar and West Bengal resulting in serious hardships to workers;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by the Coal Mines Authorities to supply wheat and rice at subsidised rate to the workers, if so, details thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) be in the negative, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) to (c) Detailed information has been called for from the State Governments concerned. On receipt of the information, the same will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **SHORTAGE OF POWER VESSELS**

574. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news published in the Statesman on 2nd April, 1973 to the effect that shortage of Power Vessels has been hampering the States' Trade; and if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(b) What steps are being taken to acquire additional vessels by the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) and (b) The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited was set up in 1967, which took over all the assets and some of the liabilities of the Ex-R.S.N. Co. Ltd., who were running the river services in West Bengal and Assam. Due to the closure of the through river route there was a dearth of traffic by river route, and thereby most of the Corporation's fleet remained idle. As a result, the vessels could not be maintained and repaired properly and some of them had become unserviceable and had to be disposed of. However, with the signing of Protocol and resumption of through river services between Calcutta and North-eastern region via Bangladesh, funds were made available by the Government to the Corporation for carrying out immediate major repairs to their vessels. For meeting their immediate requirements, steps were taken to augment the fleet of the Corporation by acquiring 16 surplus vessels of Farakka Barrage Project and one surplus tug of Government of West Bengal. The Corporation have also taken on charter tugs and barges to the extent available. Proposal to acquire more vessels of Farakka Barrage Project is under consideration. The Corporation is also considering the acquisition of surplus craft of Railways suitable for the river operation. The Corporation has also been asked to submit proposals for further strengthening and modernisation of their fleet by acquiring/constructioning more vessels.

#### **विश्वविद्यालयों का बन्द होना**

575. श्री राम सहाय : क्या शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण तथा संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि 15 अप्रैल, 1973 को कौन-कौन से विश्वविद्यालय बन्द थे ?