

(1) Quantity limits for licensing of dealers have been lowered and ceilings have also been fixed on the holding of stocks by dealers.

(2) Constant vigil is being maintained on sugar factories to ensure that the instructions regarding sale and despatch by factories are not contravened.

(3) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen and streamline the distribution machinery so that levy sugar is distributed only to entitled persons, and also to ensure that shops handling levy sugar do not also deal in free sale sugar.

Besides, a suitable scheme of rebate in excise duty on sugar has also been introduced to provide incentives for increased production.

RIVER NAVIGATION BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLA DESH

155. SHRI GURMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR : SHRI
BRAHMANANDA PANDA: SHRI
J. S. TILAK : SHRI CHANDRA
SHEKHAR: SHRI KRISHAN
KANT : SHRI V. B. RAJU : SHRI
KALYAN ROY : SHRI PRANAB
KUMAR

MUKHERJEE : DR. K.
MATHEW KURIAN : SHRI
MONORANJAN ROY : SHRI
NIREN GHOSH :

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

(a) whether river navigation protocol has been signed between India and Bangla Desh connecting West Bengal and Assam ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

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

(b) The main features of the protocol are:

(i) The two Governments have agreed to make mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways for commerce between the two countries and for passage of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other.

(ii) Each country will maintain the river routes falling within its territory in a navigable condition and provide aids for running vessels at night.

(iii) Hydrographic surveys will be undertaken on the different routes by the concerned Government if so desired by the other.

(iv) The survey certificate* and other documents issued by the appropriate authorities in one country for the vessels registered in it and running to or through the other will be recognised and accepted as valid by the other.

(v) Vessels in transit through one country will not engage in inter-country trade and will not take or discharge cargo or passengers in the country through which they are passing.

(vi) The two countries will endeavour to carry inter-country trade on equal tonnage basis and the freight rate charged would, to the extent practicable, be uniform for inter-country traffic.

(vii) Both countries have agreed to reduce customs documentation and other requirements to the essential minimum and to have customs stations at or near the point of entry and exit in each country.

(viii) The Protocol will remain in force an initial period of five years with effect from 1st November, 1972.

INTERNATIONAL CHORAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

156. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :
SHRI HABIB TANVIR :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sponsored a choir of Indian Music from New Delhi to represent India at the third International Choral Music Festival held in April, 1972 in U.S.A. under the auspices of the Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts, New York;

(b) if so, the particulars of the Choir and the criteria for its selection to represent India in Festival;

(c) whether Government have received any report on the standard of its performance there; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether with a view to promoting cultural contacts with foreign countries Government intend to encourage similar tours abroad by this Choir; and if so, which are the foreign countries that Government have in view; and what are the details of the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV) : (a) and (b) Government did not select or sponsor any choir of Indian music. The Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, New Delhi accepted an invitation from the Lincoln Centre of Performing Arts, New York and participated in the Third International Choral Music Festival held in New York in April-May, 1972, by sending their choir group. On application, the Mahavidyalaya was given a partial Travel Subsidy for 28 members of their 29-member group.

(c) The tour, it has been reported, was a success and the choir's performances were very well received.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

157. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :
SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN :
SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CMUNDAWAT: SHRI SURAJ
PRASAD : SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:
SHRI SITARAM KESRI : SHRI
SANDA NARAYANAPPA : SHRI
RAM SAHAI : SHRI KOTTA
PUNNAIAH : SHRI K. L.
N.PRASAD : SHRI THILLAI VII
LALAN : SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA
: SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : SHRI
GOLAP BARBORA : SHRI
SITARAM SINGH ; SHRI SANAT
KUMAR RAHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited the drought affected areas of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in September, last;

(b) if so, what were her observations about the conditions prevailing there;

(c) what were the demands for aid made by the local people and State Governments during her visit and steps taken and assistance rendered by the Centre in response thereto; and

(d) which are the other States affected by drought and the details of loss and damage caused thereby and the assistance rendered to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister visited some of the drought affected areas of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in September, 1972. She was distressed at the sufferings of the people.

(c) A number of Memoranda containing varied requests were presented to the Prime Minister. These memoranda were forwarded either to State Government or