

taken. Location Survey of Cuttack-Paradeep rail-link is now being done.

EXEMPTION OF POULTRY FARMING FROM INCOME-TAX

*548. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government is considering the question for exempting poultry farming from income-tax for some time more; and

(b) whether it is a fact that this consideration is being made on the basis of a demand by the All India Association of Poultry Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) Yes.

(b) The Ministry of Food and Agriculture had taken up this question. Representations have also been received from various quarters including the All India Association of Poultry Industry.

COCHIN SHIPYARD PROJECT

*552. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the technical experts have submitted their report on the Cochin Shipyard Project report prepared by Messrs Mitsubishi;

(b) if so, the total estimated outlay of the Project;

(c) whether any cutting down of the foreign exchange component estimated earlier for the project has been recommended in the report;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any final decision has been taken to the setting up of the Shipyard?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The technical experts have submitted their comments on the Cochin Shipyard Project Report prepared by M. H. I. According to the technical experts the total estimated outlay on the Project as recommended by them is Rs. 35.50 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The foreign exchange component has been reduced, taking into account the requirements of the Project as recommended by the technical experts and their latest assessment of the availability of indigenous machinery and equipment.

(e) Further steps to be taken by Government in regard to the Project are presently under consideration and a decision is expected to be taken shortly.

*553. [Transferred to the 21st June 1967]

HIGH-YIELDING VARIETY CROP PROGRAMME

*554. SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) what is the acreage and the credit requirement for the high-yielding variety crop programme in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1967-68;

(b) whether the entire credit requirement will be made available by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) if not, what further assistance Government of India propose to give to ensure that the high-yielding variety crop programme for 1967-68 will become successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) It is planned to cover an area of 2.61 lakh acres under the High-Yielding Varieties Programme in Madhya Pradesh during the kharif season and 1.31 lakh acres during the rabi/Summer season, 1967-68. The crop-wise details are as under:—

Crop	Target for (Area in lakh acres)	
	Target for 1967	Target for rabi/summer 1967-68
Paddy T.N.I.	0.50	—
Hybrid Maize	1.00	0.01
Hybrid Jowar	0.95	0.10
Hybrid Bajra	0.16	—
Mexican Wheat	—	1.20
	2.61	1.31*

*The target is tentative. Final target is yet to be fixed.

The total requirements of cooperative credit for the acreage during kharif, 1967 are estimated at Rs. 6.00 crores (including cash and kind components). Similar requirements for the rabi/summer, 1967-68 programme have not yet been finalised.

(b) No. The credit requirements of only the members of cooperative societies would be met out of the special credit limits sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India. The credit needs of the cultivators, who are not members of co-operatives would be met through Taccavi loans from the State Government.

(c) To supplement the co-operative credit to be made available for the High-Yielding Varieties Programme, the Government of India grant ways and means advances for purchase of fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, etc. A sum of Rs. 105 crores is likely to be set apart for this purpose to meet the requirements of the various agricultural production programmes during 1967-68. A portion of this amount will also be available for the High-Yielding Varieties Programmes according to needs. How much of this

will be provided to Madhya Pradesh Government is not yet known and will be worked out on the basis of their specific requirements so that the programme does not suffer for want of funds.

PURCHASE OF SHIP 'NICOBAR'

*555. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have recently purchased a ship named 'Nicobar'; and

(b) if so, the cost and name of the country from which it has been purchased?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) No, Sir. The M. V. 'Nirobar' (previously known as 'EL HALAL') was purchased in July, 1956.

(b) The ship was purchased from Halal Shipping Co. Ltd., London, (England) at a cost of £ 240,000.