

each of the major ports in the next eight weeks and the steps taken to ensure speedy and regular unloading?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Owing to the closure of the Suez Canal and consequent re-routing of a number of vessels carrying foodgrains *via* the Cape of Good Hope, the arrivals during July were unduly heavy. There was, however, no disruption in unloading apart from the operational difficulties caused due to the monsoons. A number of steps were taken to ensure that grain-handling was increased *as far as possible including, increased berthing and discharge facilities, greater overside and mid-stream discharge of grain and maximum use of ports where foodgrain vessels could be handled even during the monsoons. No difficulty is anticipated in handling the quantities likely to be received in August. A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha showing the expected week-wise arrivals of food shipments at each of the ports during the month of August, 1967. [See Appendix LXI, Annexure No. 4]. Such information about the arrivals during the month of September, 1967 is not fully available as yet.

, MASTER PLAN FOR KUTTANAD (KERALA)

•169. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:
SHRI ARAVINDAKSHAN
KAIMAL: SHRI
KESAVAN
(THAZHAVA):

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have requested for a loan of Rs. 20 crores for a master plan for stepping, up rice production in Kuttanad (Kerala);

(b) if so, what is the estimated increase of paddy cultivation as a result of the master plan; and

(c) the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PAYMENT FOR FOODGRAINS SUPPLIED BY CENTRE

"170. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has informed the Centre that payments for foodgrains supplied by the Central Government would be made in terms of the quantities received by them instead of despatches claimed by the Centre;

(b) if so, the reasons that the Government of Bihar has conveyed to the Centre in justification of their stand; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHIPPING COMPANIES

♦171. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while addressing the Indian Steam Ship Owners Association at Bombay recently he had suggested that a meeting of the representatives of the shipping Companies and the officials of the Ministry will be called to consider the Fourth Five Year Plan development projects; and

(b) if so, when the proposed meeting will be held; and whether the representatives of the Company in private sector will also be represented?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V.