

PARADEEP PORT

100. SHRI S. SUPAKAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the time by when the Paradeep port will be completed and open to sea traffic; and

(b) the total expenditure involved in the project?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) The first stage of the development of Paradeep Port to enable it to handle two million tonnes of iron ore is nearing completion. Two tugs are, however, required to bring the ships into the Port. Hulls for the tugs have already been built at Calcutta. The engines and other machinery to be fitted in the tugs are being imported from Holland. This machinery is expected to be received by September, 1966 and the tugs are expected to be delivered by October, 1966. Meanwhile, the possibility of acquiring two second-hand tugs urgently so that foodgrain ships can be handled at the Port is being considered. The Port will be opened to traffic as soon as the tugs are received.

(b) The total expenditure on the first stage development of the Port is estimated at Rs. 20.5 crores.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES COMMISSION

101. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:
SHRI S. SUPAKAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission, Shri M. L. Dantwala, has tendered his resignation;

(b) whether it is a fact that another member of the Commission had resigned earlier;

(c) if so what were the reasons for these two resignations; and

(d) whether it is proposed to appoint other people to fill up these vacancies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir; Dr. Raj Krishna resigned on August 12, 1965.

(c) A copy of the relevant portion from the letter of Dr. Raj Krishna containing the reasons for his resignation is attached.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Copy of the relevant portion from the letter of Dr. Raj Krishna

RAJ KRISHNA 31, Ravindra Nagar, New Delhi August 12, 1965.

Dear Shri Subramaniam,

After very careful and anxious consideration, I have decided to resign my position as a member of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

I whole-heartedly support many elements of the present food price policy such as price support, massive public sector purchases, procurement and public distribution of foodgrains which may increase, in my view, not only to 25 per cent but even to about 50 per cent of the marketed surplus.

But I cannot reconcile myself to some other elements of policy as the policy of movement restrictions, and the consequent inter-State disparities in supplies and prices; divergent levy and procurement policies; *ad-hoc* maximum price policies, etc. I have also serious doubts not about the logical necessity of rationing but about the workability and some of the economic and welfare consequences of it in the conditions of our country.