

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD ON KERALA PORTS

109. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the National Shipping Board has submitted any report to Government after visiting the sea ports of Kerala; and

(b) if so, what are his specific suggestions for improving the ports on the Kerala coast?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY):

(a) The Chairman, National Shipping Board, visited certain intermediate and minor ports of Kerala in October, 1965.

(b) The suggestions were as follows:

- (1) Foodgrain and fertiliser imports for the hinterland of Trivandrum should be through Trivandrum port.
- (2) Alleppy Port should be improved by providing two new tugs, effecting repairs to piers and installing additional electric cranes.
- (3) The insurance rates charged by Indian Insurance Companies on coastal cargo are unduly high and should be reduced.
- (4) Radio communication between shore and ships at Alleppy should be installed.
- (5) The development of a deep water all-weather port at Beypore will be of benefit to the country.
- (6) Badagara exports were suffering due to coastal vessels not calling at the port.
- (7) At Cannanore, the fishing wharf now being developed

could be utilised for handling the commercial traffic.

- (8) The bar at Azhikkal should be dredged to 20 feet to enable small steamers to come inside the shelter of the river.

The suggestions have been brought to the notice of the State Government and other concerned authorities for consideration.

CUT IN FOOD RATION IN KERALA

110. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has recently been a cut in food ration in Kerala;

(b) if so, the previous quantum of ration and the existing quantum;

(c) what steps Government have taken or are due to take to alleviate the food situation there; and

(d) whether there has been any satyagraha in this connection?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

खाद्य क्षेत्र

111. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विभिन्न खाद्य क्षेत्रों को समाप्त कर सारे देश को एक इकाई के रूप में मानने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो इस सम्बन्ध में अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक हो जाने की आशा है ?

†[FOOD ZONES

111. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for abolition of the various food zones and treating the whole country as a single unit is under Government's consideration; and

(b) if so, the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सह-कार मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री श्री पी. गोविन्द मेनन). (क) और (ख) वर्तमान खाद्य क्षेत्रों को जारी रखने की आवश्यकता अथवा अनावश्यकता की समीक्षा समय समय पर राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों के परमर्श से की जाती है। अगली बार समीक्षा करने की तारीख अभी निर्धारित नहीं की गई है। अतः इस समय यह बताना सम्भव नहीं है कि इस मामले में कब अन्तिम निर्णय लिए जाने की सम्भावना है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b) The necessity or otherwise of continuing the existing food zones is reviewed periodically in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States. The date for the next review has not yet been fixed. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate at present when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken.]

HOTELS IN COLLABORATION WITH AMERICAN INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS

112. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have permitted the American Inter-continental Hotels to set up hotels in India in collaboration with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the collaboration agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD TO TIDE OVER DROUGHT CONDITIONS

113. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the friendly countries which have recently offered emergency assistance to tide over the drought conditions in the country; and

(b) the nature of the assistance given or proposed to be given by each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b) The names of the countries and the nature of assistance offered are indicated below:

Australia.—A contribution of 8 million Australian dollars to be utilised on purchase of wheat, foodstuffs, handling and storage equipment and pesticides.

Austria.—Milk powder and fertilisers worth \$ 1,000,000.

Canada.—An aid of \$ 15 million for the import of wheat, wheatflour, dried peas and milk powder.