

three-man study team to study the role of Panchayati Raj institutions in stepping up the agricultural production in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, by what time they are expected to submit their report; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint such study teams for other States also in the near future ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAH3B SHINDE) : (a) and (b) No study team, as such, was constituted; a team of officers of the Ministry, however, visited Rajasthan to study the working of the Panchayati Raj institutions including, in particular, their role in stepping up agricultural production. The Deputy Minister also joined the team in the State. The officers have furnished their tour notes.

(c) The officers also visited Maharashtra and Madras States. These or other officers may visit other States also as and when the need arises.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS

\*570. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the system of distribution of fertilisers to the agriculturists are being changed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b) At present the Central Government procures almost the entire indigenous production of straight nitrogenous fertilisers and pools it with imported fertilisers, both straight nitrogenous and complex. These are supplied to the State Governments for distribution amongst cultivators.

2. The States make arrangements for internal distribution through co-operatives, !

Government Departmental Stores and or private distributors. As a result of the recommendations made by the Committee on Fertilisers to streamline distribution arrangements in order to ensure smooth marketing of larger quantities of fertilisers during the coming years, the States have been advised to review the existing arrangements and strengthening the distribution system suitably including appointment of private distributors to handle those quantities which the cooperatives are unable to effectively handle.

3. It has since been decided that the fertiliser factories licensed up to 31-3-1967 will have the freedom to make their own arrangements, for a period of 7 years from the date they go into commercial production, for the distribution of their product subject to the condition that Government have right to take over up to 30 per cent, of their production at negotiated prices. This decision is proposed to be implemented in stages in regard to factories already in production. To start with, 30 per cent of the production would be released for free marketing. After one year, the limit would be raised to 50 per cent and after 2 years it would be raised to 70 per cent.

#### RECLAMATION OF RAVINES

♦573. RAJA SHANKAR PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Committee on Natural Resources of the Planning Commission in their Study on Survey and Reclamation of Ravines in India have recommended that the reclamation work should be completed within a period of 15 years; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

**STATEMENT**

(a) One of the recommendations made by the Committee on Natural Resources of the Planning Commission is that while the survey of ravine land should be completed within 5 years, the time limit for reclamation should not be more than 15 years.

(b) Since the programmes for conducting survey and the reclamation of ravine lands will be executed by the State Governments concerned, the recommendations have been forwarded to them.

With a view to accelerating the pace of progress in regard both to survey of ravines and their reclamation, the Central Government has been giving to the State Governments concerned 100 per cent grant in case of the former and 50 per cent loan and 50 per cent grant to be shared equally between the Centre and the State in the case of latter.

The reclamation of ravine lands is however a complicated and expensive task, requiring much technical knowledge of soil conservation and use of heavy mechanical equipment, such as heavy tractors and bulldozers. Besides, large areas have to be tackled simultaneously and the individual allottee will find it difficult to coordinate the necessary activity. Further, the work has to be considered on a watershed basis and involves construction of check dams, spillways, etc. which will serve more than one holdings.

As the problem of reclamation of ravine is common to several States, particularly Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, the possibility of setting up a Ravine Reclamation Board is being explored with a view to coordinating reclamation and soil conservation measures on a watershed basis.

The present approach to increasing food production is to have intensive agricultural programmes involving optimum utilisation of the available resources through close collaboration of the Centre and States rather than mere reclamation of waste lands including ravines. In view of this approach for practical considerations, the target date for reclaiming ravines would depend upon the availability of resources both at the Centre and the State Governments concerned.

**ACQUISITION OF VESSELS BY SHIPPING CORPORATION**

♦574. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :  
SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shipping Corporation of India proposes to acquire vessels in the near future; and

(b) if so, the number of vessels proposed to be acquired ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 vessels totalling 1,76,000 GRT.

**AIR ACCIDENTS**

\*575. KUMARI SHANTA VASISHT :  
Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) how many air accidents involving civilian aircraft took place during the last two years;

(b) how many planes were lost and damaged in the said accidents;

(c) how many persons were killed and injured in the said accidents and what amount was paid as compensation to the victims and their relatives;

(d) what was the total loss for the planes lost and damaged ? £

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY) : (a) During the period from 1st August, 1964 to 31st July, 1966, 35 air accidents involving Indian civil aircraft took place. In addition 5 air accidents involving foreign registered aircraft occurred in India during the same period.

(b) Eight planes were destroyed, thirty-one were substantially damaged and one sustained minor damage.

(c) and (d) One hundred and eighty-one persons (including crew members) were killed and 17 were injured. The information regarding compensation paid to the victims and their relatives and the total loss for the planes lost and damaged is being collected.