

Staff.—The normal staff in the selected districts has been strengthened, both at the district and block levels, in order to provide effective technical guidance and assistance to cultivators in the adoption of improved methods of farming and for ensuring a close supervision over the utilisation of the resources. The State Governments are going ahead with the recruitment and posting of additional staff and their training.

Administrative Arrangements.—On the basis of the I.A.D.P., experience, the State Governments have taken measures to strengthen and streamline the administrative machinery at the various operating levels. These include effective co-ordination between the various agencies concerned with agricultural production at different levels; delegation of adequate powers to those responsible for implementation of the programme, revision of the job charts of Village Level Workers so as to engage them exclusively on agricultural production, making arrangements for timely distribution of supplies and credit etc.

Supplies.—Arrangements have been made to meet the requirements of the intensive areas in respect of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. Special allotments of nitrogenous fertilizers are being made to the State Governments for use in these districts. During the Kharif season of 1965-66, 5.60 lakh tonnes of nitrogenous fertilizers (in terms of ammonium sulphate) were allocated to the State Governments.

Plant Protection.—Plant protection activities have been stepped up considerably in the Intensive Agricultural Districts. The most pressing need in this connection is the provision of adequate quantity of power driven equipment and pesticides for undertaking area-wise operations. The demands for power sprayers and dusters are rapidly growing in these areas. Arrangements have been made to meet the requirements of power sprayers-cum-dusters of these districts to the extent possible.

Local Manurial Resources.—In view of the existing fertilizer shortage, greater emphasis is being laid on intensifying the programme of compost making, green manuring and utilisation of urban wastes in the Intensive Agricultural Areas. Projects such as the multiplication of green manure seeds by undertaking bulk plantation on waste lands, in forest areas and on Government seed farms, provision of adequate and timely irrigation facilities and raising of green manure plants in paddy areas on bunds etc. have been suggested to the State Governments for implementation. The Government of India have sanctioned funds to the extent of Rs. 1.88 crores to different States for taking up schemes for urban composting and sewage and sullage utilisation.

Storage.—With a view to bringing supplies within easy reach of farmers a large number of godowns are being constructed in the Intensive Agricultural Areas, both at the rail head/Mandi level and village level under the Special Development Programme (Crash Programme). A total amount of Rs. 2.63 crores has already been sanctioned by the Government of India to the State Governments for construction of 665 rail head/Mandi level godowns and 2050 village godowns. The State Governments are going ahead with the construction of these godowns in order to complete them by the end of 1965-66.

PARADEEP PORT

30. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 118 in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd February, 1965 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to take over Paradeep Port in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The Paradeep Port Project has been taken over as a Central Project with effect from the 1st June, 1965.

(b) (1) The Central Government will complete the Project and administer the Port when it is ready for operations.

(2) Before traffic operations are started, Paradeep will be declared a Major Port under the Indian Ports Act.

(3) The money invested by the State Government on the development of the Project till the date of taking over will be treated as a loan by the State Government to the Project to be repaid in due course when the Port is financially in a position to undertake such repayment.

(4) The Central Government investments will also be treated likewise and will be repayable by the Port Administration in due course.

(5) From the 1st June, 1965, all further expenditure on the Project will be the direct responsibility of the Central Government.

(6) From the 1st June, 1965, all the assets and liabilities of the Project will be taken over by the Central Government.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO BIHAR

31. SHRI P. C. MITRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains cerealwise supplied to the State of Bihar during the first quarter of 1965-66, from the Central stock;

(b) whether it is a fact that the gross quantity supplied was far less than the commitments made by the Centre earlier and that that contributed to a certain extent to the price rise of rice all over the State; and

(c) what steps the Central Government have taken from early July this year to replenish the State Government's food stock?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a)

Wheat—About 178,000 tonnes.

Rice—About 10,000 tonnes.

(b) Actual supplies of wheat during the first quarter of 1965-66 fell short of the allotted quotas by 26,600 tonnes. This was due to delay in arrivals of ships into Indian ports on account of a strike of longshoremen in the USA. The shortfall in actual supplies of rice was only 2000 tonnes. These marginal shortfalls are not likely to have contributed to the price rise of rice all over the State.

(c) During the month of July, the quantity of wheat actually supplied was 75,800 tonnes against the allotted quota of 65,000 tonnes. Steps are also being taken to build up sufficient stocks in the depots in Bihar.

PROGRESS OF VANAMAHOTSAVA

32. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Vanamahotsava since its inception and the number of trees planted and surviving so far; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to check indiscriminate cutting of the trees for purposes of fuel in the rural areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Since its inception Vanamahotsava is being celebrated every year throughout the country as a National Festival and a large number of trees are planted all over the country. The number of trees planted and those