

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The Para-deep 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 THIS MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): i.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 25,600 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