

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The acquisition of ships from Yugoslavia is a continuous process and goes on from Plan to Plan. So far, Government have permitted the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., a public sector concern, to place orders for the construction of 4 coastal ships and 3 bulk carriers in Yugoslavia at a total cost of Rs. 5-25 crores and 710 crores respectively on credit terms. The orders for the building of coastal vessels were placed by the Corporation on 29th January, 1964 and that of the bulk carriers on 12th February, 1965. Besides these orders placed by the Public Sector Company, Messrs. Chowgule Steamships Limited, Goa have already taken delivery of three new cargo-cum-passenger vessels on 25th December, 1964, 8th May, 1965 and 9th September, 1965, at a total cost of Rs. 1-95 crores under Yugoslav credit. Certain fresh proposals for the acquisition of ships from Yugoslavia are being received from Indian shipping companies and they are under consideration of Government at present.

**RESIGNATION OF PROF. DANTAWALA
FROM AGRICULTURAL PRICES COMMISSION**

SHRI DEVI SINGH:

SHRI RAM SINGH

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a news-item (The Economic Times, 1st October, 1965, front page c. 8) to the effect that Prof. Dantawala has requested Government to relieve him from the Chairmanship of the Agricultural Prices Commission; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Prof. Dantawala has given any reasons for

his inability to continue and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Prof. Dantawala however contradicted this, news-item and the contradiction appeared in the Economic Times dated 2nd October, 1965. He has been appointed for a term of one year which expires on 31st December, 1965.

(b) Does not arise.

RICE PROCUREMENT

SHRI RAM SINGH: SHRI

DEVI SINGH: SHRI

SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice procurement during the next Kharif season is to be handled by the Food Corporation; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether any other agency is proposed to be utilised for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) It is proposed to entrust the direct purchase operations of rice to the Food Corporation by stages. During the next Kharif season the Corporation will undertake these purchases partly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Kerala and the Union territory of Pondicherry and Karai-kal.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

•117. SHRI LILA DHAR BAROOAH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open new tourist information centres in the country in the near future;