

As stated in the reply to the Starred Question No 27 in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th November, the Ministry has suggested to the State Governments that all the jeeps operating in normal C D Blocks be pooled, to be utilised according to a systematic schedule for activities connected with production programmes. Final replies from the State Governments are awaited.

MANUFACTURE OF A AND B GRADES OF SUGAR

*279 SHRI P ABRAHAM Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have put a ban on the manufacture of A and B grades of sugar, and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In manufacture of bold grains some quantity of sugar is lost in the process of remelting and reboiling. The ban on the production of these two grades will also make for economy of fuel (bagasse). In consumption also, some waste is involved inasmuch as bold grains take more time to dissolve.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER IN TRIBAL AREAS OF MADHYA PRADESH

*280 THAKUR BHANU PRATAP SINGH Will the Minister of SOCIAL SECURITY be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry's attention has been drawn to the fact that there are 3000 villages in tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh where there are no arrangements for the supply of drinking water,

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in the matter, and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government would consider special allocation of funds when any request for the same is received from the State Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY (SHRIMATI MARGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR) (a) The State Government brought this fact to our notice in response to our letter asking the Government of Madhya Pradesh whether they had arranged for a special survey to be conducted of water scarcity in scheduled and tribal areas.

(b) Provision of drinking water supply has been accorded high priority in the Fourth Plan. It is proposed to waive the contribution from the beneficiaries in areas predominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes. For drinking water works of an engineering character under the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme, in areas which have a concentration of tribal population, the pattern of financial assistance has been liberalised and cent per cent grant will be given for the purpose. In the Tribal Development Block programme, sinking of wells has been given high priority. In recognition of the importance of this scheme, flexibility has been allowed in meeting the expenditure on this scheme from any other head in the Block budget.

(c) Does not arise.

PURCHASE OF 3 ITALIAN SHIPS BY SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA

*284 SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the State-owned Shipping Corporation of India has acquired 3 Italian ships built in 1956-57,