

beet and the manufacture of sugar from beet-root₃ were started in 1961-82 and these are still continuing.

(b) Does not arise.

OFFERS FROM FOREIGN HOTELIERS TO CONSTRUCT HOTELS

•22. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the offers received from the foreign hoteliers to construct hotels in the public sector; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The terms of the collaboration agreement are being studied by the Government.

SHORTAGE AND RISING PRICES «W FOODGRAINS

f SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: SHRI SITARAM •23! { JATPURTA:

| SHRI G. MURAHARI: | SHRI P. ABRAHAM: J. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR;

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to meet the shortage and rising prices of foodgrains in many parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): The more important of the steps taken by the Government to increase the availability of foodgrains in the country and to check the rise in their prices are the following: —

(i) Increased distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops;

(ii) Promulgation of anti-hoarding measures in the States;

(iii) Stepping up of imports from abroad;

(iv) Fixation of Maximum wholesale and retail prices of rice in most of the States and maximum retail price of wheat in Rajasthan;

(v) Strengthening of enforcement and Administrative machinery in the States; and

(vi) Tightening up of restrictions on bank advance* against foodgrains.

BERTHS FOR SHIPS

•24. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state the number of times during the last five years when ships have had to wait for berths because of strike by the dock workers or because of their resort to slowing down of unloading work?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR MERCHANT SERVICE SAILORS

•25. SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision exist* for the housing on temporary accommodation for the merchant service sailors at the ports of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Visakhapatnam and Cochin; and

(b) whether this accommodation consists in large dormitories or in single rooms with adequate facilities of bathing and toilet?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) There are Hostel-cum-Clubs at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. At Visakhapatnam there is a Club in which accommodation is provided.