

(c) and (d) These factories closed down for a few days only and thereafter resumed normal crushing.

DEPARTMENTAL APPEALS IN ASSAM CIRCLE

*226. **SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM:** Will the Minister of POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS be pleased to state:

(a) the average time taken in disposing of a departmental appeal in the Assam Circle of the Posts and Telegraphs Department during the year 1962-63; and

(b) the maximum time taken in disposing of such appeals in the recent past?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Three months.

(b) Nine months.

SUPPLY OF SUGAR-CANE TO FACTORIES

*227. **SHRI J. H. JOSHI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the announcement by the Minister for Food, as reported in the Press on 17th January, 1964, to the effect that Defence of India Rules will no longer be used to compel the sugar-cane growers to supply cane to factories in reserved areas is correct; and

(b) if so, in how many cases the Defence of India Rules were used before the date of this announcement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Defence of India Rules were used very sparingly for this purpose.

WHEAT FLOUR SALE IN DELHI

*228. **SHRI KRISHAN DUTT:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that atta produced by mills (which is sold at a controlled price of 43 naye paise per Kilogram) is being retailed as Chakki ground atta (on which there are no price restrictions and which is sold at 60 naye paise per Kilogram) and that this sort of sale has now become a regular feature in those colonies of Delhi where people show preference for local wheat atta, ground by chakki?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): No case of sale of mill atta as chakki atta in Delhi has come to the notice of the Government. The possibility of such a malpractice by the unsocial elements cannot, however, be ruled out. The Government is keeping a watchful eye on the traders.

SHIPPING AGREEMENT WITH UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

*229. **SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been entered into by India and the United Arab Republic regarding shipping; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) A shipping agreement was signed between the Governments of India and the United Arab Republic at Cairo on the 2nd January, 1964.

(b) Broad details of the agreement are given below:—

(i) A permanent and regular shipping service shall be organised