

(a) whether a barge with two metre gauge locomotives on board capsized in the Alexandra Dock Basin, Bombay, on the evening of the 20th October 1956;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was held into the accident;

(c) whether the locomotives were recovered from the sea later; and

(d) if so, what was the total damage caused to these locomotives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The Western Railway have made a preliminary assessment of the damages at approximately Rs. 45,000.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know as to whether any of the other several packages that were drowned on that day were also recovered?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: All were salvaged.

RISE IN PRICES OF AMMONIAM SULPHATE

*88. SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of ammonium sulphate had been increased recently by Government;

(b) if so, to what extent and what are the reasons for such an increase; and

(c) what was the price of this commodity per ton during the years, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956?

THE MINISTER FOR CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes, from the 26th March 1957.

(b) and (c). Two statements are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XVII, Annexure No. 18.]

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: One of the reasons given for the increase in price is the increase in the procurement price of indigenous production. May I know what the reasons are for the increased price of indigenous production?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I do not know the reasons for the increase but the manufacturers have to pay more because of the increased price of imported things and raw material.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Partly because the cost of production in Sindri has gone up and partly because of certain other reasons.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know at what rate per ton the price has increased so far as indigenous production is concerned?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I am quoting from memory. It was Rs. 270 per ton and now it is Rs. 280.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: If the increase is only Rs. 10, may I know why the price has increased by another Rs. 50?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I said there are other reasons for the increase in price.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: May I know what is the increase per ton so far as the general tariff rate of ocean freight is concerned and also the extra ocean freight on account of the diversion of shipping through the Cape?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I could *not* follow the question.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What is the increased price per ton so far as imported ammonium sulphate is concerned?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I am quoting from memory. Last year, it was, I believe, Rs. 290 per ton. This year it is more than Rs. 300—Rs. 303 or Rs. 304.

SHRI B. B. SHARMA: Msly I know whether this would affect agricultural production adversely?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I do not think so, because the use of fertilisers is increasing constantly. Besides, the price of agricultural commodities is increasing and is fairly high.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: May I know whether Government proposes to give ammonium sulphate at subsidised rates if it is used for food production?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: That is not the policy of Government.

MACHINERY TO ESTIMATE AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS

*89. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any machinery in existence or under contemplation by Government to ascertain from time to time the overall agricultural indebtedness of the country; and

(b) what are the methods in operation for liquidation of agricultural indebtedness?

THE MINISTER FOR CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Debt Relief legislation and creation of institutional agencies such as Cooperatives, are the methods adopted for liquidation of agricultural ! indebtedness.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know when the last estimate of agricultural indebtedness was made &nd also the amount?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have no recent figures. There are estimates which have been prepared recently which refer to the credit requirements of the agriculturists. They come to Rs. 750 to Rs. 800 crores.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: The question was: When was the last estimate of

agricultural indebtedness made and what was the total amount?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I could not answer that.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Have they got any machinery now to ascertain the amount of agricultural indebtedness at least at present?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: No, as I have already replied.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: May I know whether agricultural indebtedness is increasing or decreasing?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: According to my information, it is much less than before.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE: Is it from records?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: It is more from the various data that come to our notice.

DR. B. R. GOUR: They do not have any machinery for this. How do they get the data?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: From various reports produced by State Governments and Co-operatives.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the latest figure, so far as it has come to his notice, of agricultural indebtedness in the country?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has noticed the trend, but he has not noticed the amount.

FARMERS SENT ABROAD ON STUDY TOURS

*90. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have been sent abroad on study tours since the commencement of the Second Five Year Plan;