

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The scheme has not yet been finally approved by the Planning Commission for implementation.

(b) The Second Plan provision for the scheme is Rs. 350-00 lakhs.

Discontinuance of Dining Cars in G.T. Express

*81. Shri Shankaraiya: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the running of the Restaurant and dining car in G.T. Express has been discontinued from Bina to Delhi from the 1st of July, 1959;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that great inconvenience has been caused thereby to through passengers particularly from the South?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) To relieve the overcrowding in III class between Bina and Agra Cantt., over which section G.T. Express trains run heavily over-crowded, and

(ii) to meet the request from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for a sectional coach between Bhopal and New Delhi.

(c) The requirements of passengers are being met by suitably strengthening the existing catering arrangements at Mathura Jn. and Agra Cantt. and no complaint has so far been received in this regard.

Purchase of Ships from Yugoslavia

*82. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Muhammed Elias:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question

No. 286 on the 27th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the talks between India and Yugoslavia Governments for purchase of Yugoslav ships have since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the result of the same?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir, not yet

(b) Does not arise.

State Trading in Foodgrains

*83. { Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U. L. Patil:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri Damani:
Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Assar:
Shri Fahadia:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have addressed a circular letter to the various State Governments urging them to speed up the implementation of the scheme for State Trading in Foodgrains; and

(b) the progress made so far in various States in this regard?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir, a circular letter has been addressed to the State Governments asking them to implement the Scheme of State trading in foodgrains.

(b) The State Governments are taking necessary measures for the organization and development of Co-operative Societies. The wholesale traders have been licensed in all the States and purchases of foodgrains have been undertaken by most of the States. Altogether 1,217 thousand tons of rice and 180 thousand tons of wheat have been procured. In certain States however e.g., in Bihar and West Bengal the procurement operations have had to be suspended in order to maintain adequate supplies in the open market.

Ford Foundation Team on Food Production

- *84. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Damani:
Shri Kalika Singh:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final report of the Ford Foundation Team on Food Production has been considered,

(b) if so, what concrete steps are to be taken to triple the rate of present food production as suggested, and

(c) whether any estimate of extra expenditure involved has been mentioned by the team?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The recommendations contained in the Report are still under consideration. Meanwhile, many of the measures recommended by the Team have been taken into account in preparing the Third Five Year Plan schemes in the agricultural Sector.

(c) No.

Purchase of Ships for Shipping Corporations

*85. Shri Harsh Chandra Maithur: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements have been made for purchase of more ships for the Shipping Corporations;

(b) If, so, the details thereof.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A provision of Rs 20 crores was made for investment in the public sector in the Second Five Year Plan and the entire amount has been spent or committed for acquisition of tonnage. Fourteen ships including two tankers have either been already acquired or are under construction. A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha giving the details of these fourteen vessels. [See Appendix 1, annexure No 11]. Negotiations are also afoot for acquisition of additional ships but no details about them can now be furnished.

Rise in Price of Foodgrains†

- *86. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Jagdish Awasthi:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Rami Reddy:
Shri Sanganna:
Shri Jinachandran:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the present market prices of rice and wheat in various States as compared to the prices prevailing on the 1st of April, 1959 (State-wise);

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of foodgrains especially wheat rose very high recently in certain States;

(c) if so, the names of such States and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to stabilise the prices?

†For Supplementaries on this Question See cols. 312 ante