

(b) how it compares with that of 1965-66; and

(c) how much rice will be imported during 1967-68?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b). The latest rice position in the country is more difficult than during 1965-66.

(c) In the Budget Estimates for 1967-68, provision has been made for the import of about 4.8 lakh tonnes of rice.

Food Gifts from abroad

770. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount realized by the Food Corporation of India by auctioning 11 tonnes of seedless raisins received from Greece during March, 1967;

(b) the names of parties to whom they were auctioned;

(c) the manner in which the amount realized from the auction has been used for the drought-affected people of Bihar; and

(d) whether similar food gifts have been auctioned in the past?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) An auction for the sale of 11 tonnes raisins, out of the gift raising received in August 1966 from Greece for relief of scarcity in the country, was held by the Food Corporation of India on 18-4-1967. Since the highest bid fell short of the reserve price, no sale was made at the auction.

(b) and (c). In view of the answer to part (a) above, the questions do not arise.

(d) A quantity of about 241 tonnes of raisins out of this gift consignment from Greece was auctioned at Kandla

last year and the sale proceeds will be credited to the Scarcity relief and Rural Development Fund.

Cultivation of Masoor Dal

771. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States and the acreage on which masoor dal is grown in the country;

(b) the steps which Government have taken or propose to take to stop the cultivation and growing of this poisonous dal in public interest in view of ill-effects of its use; and

(c) the States which have decided to stop the cultivation of this dal?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Masoor is mostly cultivated in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab and Haryana, and in small areas in Assam, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. Separate acreage figures for Masoor are however not available.

(b) It is not correct that masoor dal is poisonous and as such the Government do not propose to take any steps to impose any restrictions on its cultivation.

(c) Does not arise.

Petroleum Mulch

772. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of petroleum mulch experiments carried out in India by ESSO Research; and

(b) whether it has a commercial proposal to grow food in semi-arid regions by such experiments?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Experiments

were laid out on efficiency of different mulches in moisture conservation during the years 1961 and 1962 in the I.A.R.I. ESSO agricultural mulch also known as Petroleum mulch, was tried along with straw mulch and polythene mulch. The petroleum mulch developed by ESSO research company, U.S.A. was used as a liquid spray in cotton crop. The material was sprayed with a pump at the rate of 650 litres per hectare on either side of the cotton rows. Observations were recorded on soil moisture changes during the hot months of May and June.

The straw mulch conserved moisture to the extent of about 26 per cent, polythene mulch to the extent of about 39 per cent and petroleum mulch to the extent of about 14 per cent. There was no adverse effect of these materials on the yield or quality of the crop. Thus, the petroleum mulch was the least effective in moisture conservation in this trial.

(b) In view of the aforesaid results and with the present prices in India, it may not be feasible to recommend the use of petroleum mulch for large scale use.

Tuticorin Harbour Project

773. Shri Sohtyan:

Shri A. Anbushagan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Tuticorin Harbour Project;

(b) the schedule of work planned for 1966-67;

(c) the total estimated cost of the Project; and

(d) the amount spent so far?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) The progress of work is as follows:—

Shore Works

All the preliminary works such as Field Investigation, Land Acquisition approach road, internal roads, roads to quarries, railway siding to the quarries, 1st and 2nd stage of quar-

ries, temporary offices, first stage of water supply, sewerage, electrification, filling in low areas etc., have been completed.

Off-Shore Works

(i) Construction of North Breakwater.

The work on the construction of breakwater upto—5 metres is complete. Laying of core stones has been completed in the reach and laying of armour stones is in progress.

(ii) Construction of South Breakwater.

The work on the construction of breakwater upto—3 metres is complete. Work on the reach from—3m to—5m is in progress.

(iii) Approach Arm.

The work of reclaiming the approach arms from chart datum to—3m depth is in progress.

(b) A provision of Rs. 193.60 lakhs was provided in the Budget Estimates 1966-67 for continuing works relating to construction of breakwaters, roads, rail approach and other preliminary works and also for the purchase of construction equipment.

(c) According to the detailed Project Report, which is under consideration of Government, the Tuticorin Harbour Project is estimated to cost Rs. twenty-five crores.

(d) Rs. 5.22 crores.

Terminal at Dum Dum Airport

775. Dr. Karan Singh:

Shri G. S. Singh:

Shri S. K. Tapariah:

Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in developing the terminal at Dum Dum Air port; and

(b) how long it will take to develop the same?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b). A new international terminal complex at Dum Dum airport is being