

vernment along with the stations of loading of fodder and destination stations. The State Governments are also entitled to sponsor traffic for movement under higher priority.

Theft of love birds

- *631. { Shri Kapur Singh:
Dr. B. N. Singh:
Shri Himmatsinghji:
Shri Solanki:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of rare species of birds known as love-birds, were stolen from the Zoological Gardens of Delhi during the week ending 30th November, 1963; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter of recovery of these valuable stolen birds and against those officials found delinquent in this affair?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) It is true that two pairs each of masked and peach faced love birds were stolen from the Delhi Zoological Park on 28th November, 1963. These birds purchased from a dealer for Rs. 232 are, however, commonly found in Africa and are not rare.

(b) Police investigation is in progress. The birds have not, however so far been recovered. Employees who were suspected to be involved in the affair were placed under suspension. Permission has also been given for the prosecution of one of them.

Godown and handling contract at Bombay Port

*632. Shri Jashvant Mehta: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions for godown and handling contract in respect of important foodgrains of Government at Bombay port;

(b) whether it is a fact that after giving the contract on a firm rate, Government have made payments in excess of the terms and conditions of the contract to the contractors recently; and

(c) if so, the amount involved?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) A copy of the tender form last issued for appointment of handling contractors at the godowns at Bombay is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2141|63].

(b) and (c). No, Sir. No additional payment has been made to the contractors. After prolonged discussions, however, with the labour which started before the contract was awarded to the existing contractors it has been agreed to allow an increase of 15 per cent in the wages of the labour. The Government has paid Rs. 81,000 to the labour through the contractors as part payment towards the increased in wages.

World Food Congress

- *633. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ramaachandra Ulaka:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 721 on the 17th September, 1963 and state:

(a) the decisions since taken by the F.A.O. at its November conference on the recommendations of the World Food Congress; and

(b) the action Government propose to take in the light of those decisions?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) The F.A.O. Conference discussed the following re-