

Party in Bihar and the cock symbol from the list of reserved symbols in the State of Bihar.

Supply of Food under PL 480

56. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**
Shri P. C. Borroah:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri D. D. Puri:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Basumatari:
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:

Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations have of late been going on for a new 2,000,000 tonnes food agreement with the U.S. Government;

(b) if so, whether the agreement has since been signed; and

(c) the terms thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon)**: (a) In August 1966 we requested the U.S. Government for provision of funds under PL 480 to meet our additional requirement of 2 million tonnes of wheat and 2,50,000 tonnes of rice for the remaining period of the calendar year 1966.

(b) No, Sir. Our request is still under the consideration of the U.S. Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Rice to Assam

56. **Shri P. C. Borroah:**
Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:

Will the Minister of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Chief Minister and Members of Parliament from

Assam urged him in September, 1966 to supply at least 20,000 tonnes of rice to Assam to avert an acute food crisis in that State;

(b) if so, how much rice has been supplied to that State since then and the basis on which supplies have been made and from which sources; and

(c) the efforts made to avert the food crisis in the flood-torn State?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of **Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon)**: (a) The request received from Chief Minister, Assam in September was for allotment of 10,000 tonnes of rice in addition to quantities already allotted to them. He had earlier asked for 20,000 tonnes in all. Members of Parliament from Assam had also requested in August that the rice asked for by the State Government should be made available.

(b) 3,000 tonnes of rice have been supplied from Central stocks, 5,000 tonnes of rice offered by Bihar Government and 3,000 tonnes of rice offered by Orissa Government have also been allotted to Assam.

(c) Allocation of wheat to Assam had been increased to the maximum quantity that could be moved to that State and movement of all foodgrains to Assam was given top priority.

River Steam Navigation Co.

57. **Shri P. C. Borroah:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaiya:

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Bade:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Members of Parliament had submitted in September, 1966, a memorandum regarding the proposal to close down the River Steam Navigation Company urging Government to reorganise the company into an internal service within Assam as an adjunct to the Railways or Central Road Transport Corporation; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto? 14

The Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Yes.

(b) The future set-up of the Rivers Steam Navigation Company is under active consideration of Government and the points enumerated in the memorandum are being taken into account while examining the matter.

Mechanised handling of Commodities in Ports

58. Shri B. K. Das:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** be pleased to state:

(a) the ports where mechanised handling of commodities have been introduced so far;

(b) whether any labour force has been displaced in consequence of such mechanisation; and

(c) the programme of mechanised handling of commodities either partially or in full at other ports?

The Minister of **Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism** (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Mechanical handling of commodities is in vogue in varying degrees at all major ports.

(b) No displacement of labour has taken place as a result of such mechanisation.

(c) The programme for mechanisation of cargo handling at major ports is as follows:-

At *Calcutta*, the question of further mechanisation of cargo handling is under study by the Port Commissioners.

At *Bombay*, the question of constructing two berths exclusively for the mechanical handling of foodgrains and other bulk commodities in the proposed satellite port at *Nhava-Sheva* is under consideration.

At *Madras*, it is proposed to instal a modern mechanical ore loading plant of 5 million ton capacity. The question of installing a silo for foodgrain is under consideration. The possibility of introducing mechanical handling for phosphate and other bulk commodities is being examined.

At *Cochin*, four shore cranes with grabbing fitting are proposed to be provided at the open berth now under construction for handling coal. As an experimental measure, it is proposed to provide hoppers by the side of the Transit Shed, for discharging food-grain into them by means of vacuators. The further programme for mechanisation is under study by the port authorities.

At *Mormugao*, a project for providing an ore pier with mechanical ore handling installation is under active consideration.

At *Paradeep*, mechanical handling of ore will commence when the new Iron ore berth and mechanical handling plant start working in the near future.

Jayanti Shipping Co.

59. Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hem Barua: