

of Jammu & Kashmir. However, a proposal for the amendment of the Act is under consideration of the Central Government. The remaining three State Governments have not taken any steps so far to set up State warehousing Corporations.

Central Assistance to Orissa Due to Drought

*324. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether drought conditions are prevailing in some parts of Orissa State ;
- (b) If so, the areas involved;
- (c) whether State Government have sought any assistance from the Centre ; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b) . The Government of Orissa has reported prevalence of drought conditions in some parts of Koraput, Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Ganjam, Puri and Bolangir districts.

(c) No. Sir, The State Government has not sought any Central financial assistance.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction Of Crop Insurance Scheme

*325. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to introduce Crop Insurance ;
- (b) if so, which particular crop has been selected ; and
- (c) whether this will be localised to a particular State or spread over the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Delay In Completing Tuticorin Harbour Project

* 326. SHRI M.M. JOSEPH : will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been any delay in completing the Tuticorin Harbour Project ; and
- (b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) and (b). The major works under execution at Tuticorin relate to the formation of the South and the North Breakwater construction of one Pier-head in the South Breakwater and two Pier-heads in the North Breakwater, construction of a Wharf Wall and Dredging and Reclamation of the Wharf Wall area. The works were scheduled to be completed by about middle of 1973. The contractor for this work has not maintained the progress as planned. He has asked for extension of time up to October, 1973 for completion of the works. Government are considering his request for extension of time in the context of the difficulties explained by the contractor.

British aid for Building a Cargo ship by Scottish Firm

*327. SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : SHRI SARJOO PANDEY :

will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether talks were held regarding the British aid allocation of funds to finance the building of a giant cargo ship for India by a Scottish firm; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :**

(a) and (b). No specific talks were held with the British Government for financing the building of a giant cargo ship by a Scottish firm. However, certain proposals were made last year to the British Government for purchase of ships by Indian Shipping companies from British Shipyards eligible for financing out of British Project Aid. Following the acceptance of these proposals in principle by the British Government, the Government of India have allocated £11.65 million in favour of the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. for purchase of 2 bulk carriers of 75,000 DWT each and £6.125 million in favour of M/S Scindia steam Navigation Co. Ltd. for purchase of one bulk carrier of 75000 DWT. Allocation of another £5.59 million in favour of M/S Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd. for purchase of 2 multi-purpose vessels did not materialise. The British credit is from Government to Government basis and the shipping companies get only the foreign exchange facilities.

**Growth of Indian shipping adversely affected
due to removal of Rebate**

***328. SHRIMATI SAVITRI SHYAM :**
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growth of Indian shipping has been badly hit as a result of removal of rebate ;

(b) if so, the Corporation and other interested shipping companies which have been hit ; and

(c) the steps which the Government propose to take to recover the losses sustained and to earn profit ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :**

(a) to (c). The development rebate is still available to Indian shipping.

This will, however, be withdrawn from 31-5-1974. The effect of this decision on the growth and profitability of Indian shipping will be known in due course.

**High Rates of interest on short-term
loans given by Housing and Urban
Development Corporation,
Calcutta**

***329. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :**
Will the Minister of WORKS AND
HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Housing and Urban Development Corporation, Calcutta is demanding high rate of interest for the shortterm loans from the West Bengal Government ;

(b) whether the period for the repayment of the loans has also been reduced from 20 years to 5 to 7 years with higher interest; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND
HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY
PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR
DIKSHIT) : (a) No, Sir,**

(b) The period of repayment of the loans would depend entirely on the nature and viability of the schemes.

(c) Does not arise.

**Merchants caught in Andhra Pradesh
while exporting rice to other States**

***330. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA :**
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7168 dated the 5th August, 1971 regarding seizure of Railway wagons of rice in Andhra Pradesh in July, 1971 in the guise of broken rice and state :

(a) whether the investigation into the matter has since been made ; and