

Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam were not revised during the last 20 years;

(b) whether they do not come upto the level of scales drawn by their counterparts in Mazagaon Dock Yard Ltd., Bombay;

(c) if so, the steps taken to modify the position;

(d) whether rates of dearness allowance paid to the staff in the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., compare unfavourably with those paid to the Central Government employees;

(e) whether the understanding reached between the Management and the Staff regarding dearness allowance in 1963 has been implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) No Sir. The pay scales have been revised.

(b) In the absence of a thorough technical enquiry into job equivalence it is difficult to identify counterparts in Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam and Mazagon dock Ltd., Bombay. Broadly speaking, however, the scales of pay in Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. Visakhapatnam are lower than those in Mazagon Dockyard Limited, Bombay.

(c) The whole question of pay scales in the Engineering Industries including the pay scales at the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam is before the Wage Board for Engineering Industries.

(d) No Sir. In fact the D.A. payable at the Hindustan Shipyard Limited is substantially higher than that in the case of Central Government employees.

(e) and (f). It has not been possible to devise an arrangement for the payment of D.A. which would be conducive to increased productivity and efficiency.

#### Allocation of Fertilizers to States

\*241. Shri M. S. Murty: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allocation of fertilizers made to certain States could not be utilized due to drought conditions prevailing in those States;

(b) if so, whether any redistribution in the allocation of fertilizers to the States has been made; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, the details of re-distribution?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha on receipt.

#### Co-operative Fertiliser Feasibility Study Team

\*242. Shri C. Janardhanan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Co-operative Fertiliser Feasibility Study Team sponsored by Cooperative League of U.S.A. to study the feasibility of setting up fertiliser projects in the co-operative sector has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the team; and

(c) the decisions taken by Government in this respect?

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

(b) The Team has recommended that it is feasible to have a fertilizer plant or plants owned by cooperatives in India in collaboration with American cooperatives. The Team has also recommended that a more exhaustive

study of feasibility and plant location is conducted.

(c) In pursuance of the recommendations made by the Team, an Investor Team representing American co-operatives is likely to visit India shortly. Government decision regarding a fertilizer plant in the Co-operative Sector will be taken after the proposed Investor Team formulates specific proposals.

#### Transport Bottleneck in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

\*243. Shri K. R. Ganesh: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the transport bottleneck, the entire development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is being blocked;

(b) whether Government have received representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, steps taken to solve the transport bottleneck?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) There are certain difficulties in making available all of the requirements for transport for the development of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Development activity in these Islands has not however been blocked on this account.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) (i) In addition to the two already in service, one more ship has been acquired to meet immediate requirements for service between the mainland of India and the Islands.

(ii) In addition to (i) above, five new ships are being acquired—three for the Mainland—Island service and two for Inter-island service.

(iii) A provision of Rs. 3.40 crores has been proposed for inclusion in the draft outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan of the Andaman & Nicobar Is-

lands for the development of roads and road transport in this area. The proposals envisage the completion of road works in progress, the construction of new roads, the cost of acquiring 20 buses for local operations, and the expansion of workshop facilities.

#### Prices of Wheat and Cereals

\*244. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Khagapathi Pradhan:  
Shri Heerji Bhai:  
Shri S. K. Sambandhan:

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

(a) the different prices of wheat and cereals in different States at the end of February, 1967; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to remove the disparity in prices of wheat and cereals in different States?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anna-sahab Shinde): (a) A statement showing the wholesale prices of wheat and other cereals at important centres in different States at the end of February, 1968 is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. I.T-209/67]

(b) It is not possible to bring about parity in foodgrains prices as conditions vary from State to State.

#### इंडियन एयरलाइन्स कारपोरेशन के पास विमान

\*245. श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : क्या पर्यटन तथा अलैंगिक उड्डयन मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय इण्डियन एयर लाइन्स कारपोरेशन के पास कुल कितने तथा किस-किस किस्य के विमान हैं ; और

(ख) 1967-68 में इण्डियन एयर लाइन्स कारपोरेशन का कितने तथा किस-किस किस्य के विमान खरीदने का प्रस्ताव है ?