

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Charges against Marketing Officers of Guntur

*271. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has received serious charges of corruption against certain Marketing Officers of the Tobacco Grading Scheme, Guntur;

(b) if so, whether the charges have been investigated; and

(c) the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes, Sir. An unsigned complaint dated 18-11-1985 against a Marketing Officer at Guntur was received by the Central Vigilance Commission as well as the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India.

(b) This complaint along with a similar complaint against another Assistant Marketing Officer at Guntur is being investigated by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

Capacity of Ports to handle Cargo

*275. Shri Linga Reddy:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Dr. P. Srinivasan:
Shri Paramasivan:
Dr. P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Kajrolkar:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri M. Rampure:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri R. Barua:

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

(a) the present capacity of the various Ports to handle cargo per day in India; and

(b) the arrangements made to handle foodgrains cargo from America and other countries and transport the same to the interior parts of the country?

The Ministry of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-5628/66].

सहकारी स्वयं

* 276. श्री विभूति मिश्र :

श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सहकारी संस्थाओं की स्थापना के लिये एक समान तथा व्यापक विधि बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मोटी रूपरेखा क्या है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री इयानबर मिश्र) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Foodgrains destroyed by Rodents

*277. Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri Bagri:

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Karni Singhji:
Shri Hukam Chand Kaobha-
valya:
Shri Shinkre:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri Badshah Gupta:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

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

(a) the percentage of India's total food production which is eaten away or destroyed by rodents, locusts and other pests and lost due to defective methods of processing and storage;

(b) whether any improvement has been effected in this connection in the last ten years and if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether any special steps are proposed to be taken in this connection?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, and Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):

(a) Overall losses due to pests and diseases, etc., to agricultural crops and produce are estimated at 20 per cent. The insect pests, including grasshoppers and locusts, rodents and other animal pests are believed to inflict a loss of 10 per cent. While another 10 per cent is caused by plant diseases and noxious weeds. The losses to stored grains are estimated at 5-7 per cent. The extent and value of damage vary from pest to pest, crop to crop, season to season and from one tract to another, which makes the problem of assessment of damage rather complicated.

(b) Plant protection measures are being increasingly employed to check losses by insect pests and diseases etc. There is awareness among farmers of the importance of plant protection measures. The total cropped area covered by these measures in the last

year of the First and Second Five Year Plans was 6.1 and 16.0 million acres respectively; 43 million acres are likely to be treated at the end of the Third Plan period. It is proposed to reach a level of covering 210 million acres per year by 1968-69 and maintain it for the last two years of the Fourth Plan.

(c) Several steps have been and are proposed to be taken to intensify the plant protection work. The important ones may be enumerated as follows:—

- (1) Plant Protection organisations, with independent and properly trained staff, have been set up in all the States to help organise pest control. The Central Government is assisting the State Governments, wherever required, by way of technical advice and in making arrangements for the imports of pesticides and equipment and also by way of assistance in ground and aerial operations.
- (2) A chain of agricultural universities has been set up to carry out research in entomology and plant pathology and for training in plant protection.
- (3) Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other Central and State Institutions are also conducting research on newer methods of pest control on a continuing basis.
- (4) With a view to carrying the results of research to the field, Extension agencies, both at the Centre and the States are being strengthened.
- (5) Provision of funds in Public Sector for plant protection work has steadily risen. For example: in the First and Second Plans, the expenditure was Rs. 4.91 crores, while in

the Third Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 10.2 crores was provided, but it is likely to rise to Rs. 13 crores by the end of 1965-66. The Fourth Five Year Plan envisages an investment of Rs. 33.56 crores in the public sector.

(6) Action has been taken to expand the manufacturing capacity within the country. An agreed list of essential pesticides has been worked out, and steps have been taken to manufacture them as far as possible and import what must be imported. Similarly, equipments are being manufactured within the country. Steps have been taken to give them necessary assistance in importing essential parts etc. not yet produced within the country.

(7) To supplement ground spraying, the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage has an Aerial Unit of seven spraying planes. There are nine aircraft in the private sector. These have proved very useful in spraying groundnut, cotton and other crops.

Agricultural Co-operative Credit

*278. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaia:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Shinkre:
Shri Basumatari:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about twenty-three per cent of the agricul-

tural co-operative credit has been diverted to non-productive purposes;

(b) whether this diversion among the non-cultivators was higher than among the cultivators;

(c) how far the extent of diversion had an inverse ratio with the educational standard of the borrowers;

(d) the principal causes accounting for such diversion; and

(e) the steps taken to remove the deficiencies of the credit system?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) A study of the utilisation of co-operative loans undertaken by the Programme Evaluation Organisation has indicated that 23 per cent of the amount borrowed for short-term production purposes was diverted to other purposes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The practice of diversion bears an inverse relationship with the educational standard of the borrowers, the extent of inverse ratio being 45 per cent among illiterates and those who could read and write, and 12 per cent among matriculates and above.

(d) The main reasons for diversion of co-operative credit are—

(i) inadequacy of credit for production as well as for other purposes;

(ii) want of timeliness in the grant of such credit;

(iii) lack of machinery for effective supervision; and

(iv) lack of education on the part of members, especially of the lower strata of the cultivators, about proper utilisation of the loans received from the co-operatives.

(e) The following measures are being taken—

(i) implementation of the crop loan system under which a