

[English]

DR. R. MALLU: Sir, it is mentioned here that there are consecutive losses of Rs. 74 crore, Rs. 105 crore and Rs. 20 crore, incurred by the insurance companies during the last three years. I want to know the reasons for these continuous losses on the part of the Government.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Sir, it is obvious that premium in this insurance is very less and damages are more. That is why these losses are there.

[Translation]

DR. CHATTRAPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of fruit growers farmers is quite different. In addition to natural calamities, some times the mango crop of whole orchard is damaged due to crop diseases. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to include fruit growers under this insurance scheme?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Sir, fruits and plantation are not included in this. Here I want to give two clarifications. Here it was mentioned that the share of Central Government and State Government are equal but it is in the ratio of 2:1. It is not proper to lay the second issue in the House as it has not so far been referred to the Cabinet. This issue is clubbed with the new agricultural policy therefore I misunderstand it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You correct it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

World Food Day

*263. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the theme of the World Food Day this year; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the desired theme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The theme of the World Food Day this year is 'HARVESTING NATURE'S DIVERSITY'.

(b) The Agriculture Policy Resolution of the Government aims at promoting, inter alia, sustainable agriculture, rooted in environmentally sound farming practices and conservation of biodiversity including crop varieties, livestock breeds etc. Our national policy, therefore, is directed towards conservation, development and management of our biodiversity.

Wagons' Orders with H.D.C.L.

*264. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have placed orders with M/s. Hindustan Development Corporation Ltd., West Bengal for the manufacture and supply of wagons and coaches;

(b) if so, the details with terms and conditions thereof; and