

**Amnasahib Shinde:** (a) and (b). No foodgrains imported by the Government of India under PL-480 Agreement are given to any voluntary Christian organisation. Some such organisations are, however, themselves importing foodgrains under PL-480 for their feeding programmes.

(c) and (d). Attention is invited to the answer given in the Sabha on the 14th June, 1967, by the Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, to Starred Question No. 481.

#### Wastage of Fruit due to Faulty Storage

**5179. Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**  
**Shri Meetha Lal Meena:**  
**Shri K. N. Pandey:**  
**Shri Rane:**

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

a) whether one million tonnes of fruit is wasted away every year due to the faulty storage arrangements, and

(b) the steps taken to avoid this wastage?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Amnasahib Shinde): (a) It is estimated that about 15—25 per cent of Fruits produced in the country are not available for consumption due to spoilage and other causes—Accurate information is however not available.

(b) The steps being taken by Government in this regard include:—

- (i) Development of cold storages in cooperative as well as public sector during the Fourth Five Year Plan period;
- (ii) Establishment of fruit preservation and community canning centres with a view to promoting the preservation of perishable fruits and vegetables and also spreading the consumption of such processed and preserved foods;

(iii) Introduction of prepackaging and other treatments to reduce spoilage during transport and handling;

(iv) Use of wax-emulsion treatment to fruits to prolong their storage life;

(v) promotion of preservation of fruits by processing and dehydration;

Fruit Products Order, 1955 has been introduced to enforce quality control in processing and dehydration of fruits and vegetables. Cold Storage Order, 1964 has also been introduced to regulate storage conditions of perishable foodstuffs.

#### Motels

**5180. Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:**  
**Shri R. K. Sinha:**

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state

(a) whether the scheme to set up motels during the Fourth Plan period has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) and (b). The India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., a public sector undertaking, has plans to construct motels along the National Highway. The first to be taken up will be the Delhi-Bombay route. The details have yet to be worked out.

#### New High-yielding Variety of Rice

**5181. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya.** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the production of a new strain of rice noted for its high yielding quality by the International Rice Research Institute in Los Banos, Philippines, scientifically known as IR8-298-3; and

(b) whether it is proposed to introduce it in India?