

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T.
ANJIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a part of the National Adult Education Programme, the Central Board for workers Education has been conducting functional adult literacy classes in the organised sector since 2nd October, 1978 through 43 Regional Centres spread all over the country. The duration of these classes is 6 months. The main thrust is in the plantation and mining areas where rate of illiteracy is very high.

Import of Chemical-Coated Seeds to India

392. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

SHRI Y S. MAHAJAN :

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH

MALIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 6 February, 1985 regarding "Chemical-coated wheat seeds sent to India" ;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from whom such seeds were purchased ;

(c) whether these seeds were tested ; if so, what is the result and whether these seeds were distributed to the farmers for growing ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) what are the effects of these seeds and what action has been taken by Government against the suppliers ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The seeds were received (not purchased) for experimental purposes from the International Centre for Maize & Wheat Research in Mexico and the International Centre for Research in Dry Land Agriculture, Aleppo, Syria.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The seeds were tested by the experts in the Plant Quarantine Division of the National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources of the ICAR located in the Campus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, first under laboratory conditions and subsequently under post quarantine nursery in the field conditions under strict vigilance. Only a few plants were found to carry either the Loose Smut disease or the flag Smut. These were destroyed along with four adjacent healthy rows on either side of the infected plants. The remainder of the experimental seed material was harvested and made available to the concerned scientists through the ICAR Project Directorate of Wheat.

(e) The seeds harvested from the experimental nurseries were healthy and were meant for strengthening the genetic variability in the wheat breeding programme. The procedure followed is part of the collaborative programmes with the above named international research centres for developing better and high yielding wheat varieties. The question of taking any action against the suppliers of the experimental seed material does not therefore arise.

Panels on Wage Policy

393. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formed the panels on wage policy ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made so far by the panels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T.
ANJIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Attack on Rameshwaram Fishermen by Lanka Navy

394. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :