

Sir, It is not a fact that Food Corporation of India incurs heavy losses due to mal-practices in transporting paddy from Punjab and Haryana to Rajasthan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The estimated annual transit loss in case of paddy (in terms of rice) during 1984-85 was 0.10 lakh tonnes only over a total quantity of 3.21 lakh tonnes moved.

The Corporation has taken a number of steps to minimise transit losses. These include 100% weighment both at the time of receipt and issue, progressive use of machine stitching, surprise checks by squads at loading and unloading points, reduction in movement in open wagons, and appropriate disciplinary action against the guilty FCI officers.

#### Maternity Benefits and Child Care Services to Women Workers

135. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government are considering extension of maternity benefit and child care services to all women workers specially to those working in the organised sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : The women workers are at present entitled to maternity and certain other benefits under either the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 or the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. The coverage under the two Acts is, however, restricted to factories and certain other specified classes of establishments. The Labour Ministers' Conference held in May, 1985 had, therefore, recommended inter-alia extension of the coverage under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, to new classes of establishments/employments where women workers are working in substantial numbers. The Government is accordingly considering the question of enlargement of the coverage under the Act.

#### Burning of Foodgrains by Punjab Farmers

136. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers in Punjab are burning their foodgrains, as has been reported in the Capital's leading dailies, due to the failure of Food Corporation of India in procuring the foodgrains, and if so, the steps being taken to prevent such burning of foodgrains ;

(b) the quantity and value of foodgrains, stored in open, that have been lost due to unprecedented floods in Punjab ; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide covered storage facilities in Punjab in order to prevent loss of foodgrains due to rains and floods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) There have been some reports in the press regarding burning of paddy but, on verification, it has been found that it was only paddy straw that was burnt by the farmers. All grains conforming to the prescribed specifications, brought to the mandis and offered for sale, have been purchased by the procuring agencies.

(b) 5460 tonnes of wheat stored under CAP storage by the F.C.I. and valued at Rs. 106.47 lakhs has been damaged due to floods in Punjab. The Punjab State Government have reported that 1,97,590 bags of wheat and rice valued at Rs. 7.01 crores were damaged in similar circumstances.

(c) During 1985-86, additional covered storage capacity of 2.93 lakh tonnes is expected to be constructed in Punjab. Suitable covered space will also be hired, if available.

#### Sale of Asian Games Village Flats to Non-Resident Indians

137. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Asian Game Village Flats that have been sold so far to non-resident Indians and how many are remaining vacant ; and

(b) whether the revolving tower restaurant in the Asian Games Village has sold to a contractor for running a hotel and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) 95 applications were received along with earnest money from Non-Resident Indians against 599 dwelling units earmarked for them. 72 of these applications have since been withdrawn. Of the remaining 23 applications possession of flats has been handed over to 8 applicants after receiving full payment from them in foreign exchange.

(b) Restaurant has been allotted to M/s Chhatwal Hotels at a licence fee of Rs. 50,000/- per month after inviting tenders followed by negotiations. The licence is valid for 5 years with effect from 19th June, 1984.

#### Distress Sale of Sugarcane

138. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the distress sale of Sugarcane in different parts of the country due to which the Sugarcane growers are facing huge losses ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Government have not received any report to the effect that there is distress sale of sugarcane.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Losses Due to Natural Calamities

139. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :  
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :  
SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are maintaining any record of the losses of lives by floods, droughts and other natural calamities suffered during last three years;

(b) If so, the number of such victims, year-wise ;

(c) The losses of crops, properties during the same period ; and

(d) Total money spent to check the floods for the same period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The data on damages and the loss of human lives caused by rains/floods/cyclones are compiled each year on the basis of reports received from various State Government/Union Territories.

(b) Year-wise loss of human lives due to heavy rains/floods/cyclones in the country as reported by the State Governments/Union Territories is as under :

YEAR	HUMAN LIVES LOST (NOS.)
1982	1818
1983	2377
1984	1577

No report of death due to drought conditions has been received from any State/Union Territory during this period.

(c) Year-wise loss to properties due to heavy rains/floods/cyclones in the country is as under :

YEAR	HOUSES	PUBLIC PROPERTIES (in crores)
1982	383.87	740.65
1983	339.61	873.43
1984	164.21	734.57