

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "500 million without adequate food" appeared in "Indian Express" dated 15 October, 1985;

(b) the percentage of people in India living without adequate food; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is not readily available.

(c) (i) Regular allotments of foodgrains to various States/Union Territories are being made for public distribution.

(ii) Foodgrains are being distributed to workers in rural employment schemes and in other welfare schemes.

Adoption of Modern Tools for Agricultural Production

148: DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICAR has emphasized the need for adoption of modern tools such as remote sensing techniques in forecasting crop production in the country;

(b) if so, whether due to medieval methods and equipments used by farmers, the target of crop production is less; and

(c) steps contemplated by the Government to provide latest and modern tools and techniques to the farmers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that productivity is hampered due to continued use of traditional equipment by farmers.

(c) Government attaches great importance to the modernisation and selective mechanisation of agriculture. Improved tools, implements and machines have been developed by the agricultural universities, research institutes and coordinated projects sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Research and Education programmes are being further strengthened during the Seventh Plan. Government of India have set up an Agricultural Implements and Machinery Review and Release Committee to review and recommend useful implements for popularisation in different regions. A centrally sponsored scheme for establishment of Farmers' Agro-Service Centres for custom hiring and popularisation operated during 1983-84 and 1984-85 in 600 blocks in 9 States. It is proposed to continue this scheme in 500 additional blocks during the Seventh Plan also.

Provident Fund Amount Outstanding Against M/s. Shree Krishna Woollen Mills Private Limited, Bombay

149. DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Provident Fund contribution arrears with M/s. Shree Krishna Woollen Mills Private Limited, Bombay have been mounting in spite of repeated requests to deposit the arrears;

(b) if so, how much Provident Fund contribution arrears stands against the firm as on 31 October, 1985; and

(c) action contemplated by Government against the firm for not depositing Provident Fund arrears ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) According to available information, there were no arrears of Provident Fund contribution against M/s. Shree Krishna Woollen Mills (Private)