

LAL): (a) to (c). A Search Committee for suggesting a panel of names for consideration by Government for appointment of Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education who also function as Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research was constituted on 17.1.90 with the following members:

1. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan—Chairman
Former DG, IRRRI, Manila
2. Dr. Harswaroop Singh
Member (Agriculture) Planning Commission.
3. Shri J.D. Sethi,
Member, Planning Commission.
4. Dr. T.N. Khoshoo,
Ex-Secretary,
Department of Environment.
5. Dr. S. Ramachandran,
Secretary,
Department of Biotechnology.
6. Dr. A.B. Joshi,
Former, Vice-Chancellor,
Mahatma Phule Agricultural University.

(d), (e) and (f). The committee initially submitted a panel of names, but due to certain representations, the committee has been asked to reconsider the panel. The fresh panel is awaited from the Committee.

Computerisation of Indian Ports

5682. SHRI D. PANDIAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNDP has offered financial assistance for computerisation of Indian Ports and a task force had been set up with Shri D.D. Datta as Convener;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any data regarding the utilisation of centralised computers operations in various developed ports in other countries and their impact on the working of the ports and employment opportunities has been collected?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). UNDP had evolved a project called 'Regional Approach to Appropriate Computerisation in Ports', which would enable the ports in the ESCAP Region including Indian ports, to increase port efficiency by effective utilisation of appropriate computer technology. UNDP had agreed to provide free of cost certain services for the implementation of the scheme.

A Task Force had been set up by this Ministry under Shri Datta to inter-alia identify new areas of computerisation in the ports and to give suggestions on how to integrate the various computer applications. The Task Force has submitted a draft report to the Ministry for its comments.

(c) No data as such has been collected but some literature in this regard was obtained from abroad.

[*Translation*]

Damage caused by Hailstorm in Himachal Pradesh

5683. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been extensive damage to crops, roads, dislocation of water supply and also loss of life and property due to unprecedented snowfall, hailstorm and rains in Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Pangi-