

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-

Bharmore area of Chamba, Shimla, Kullu and Kangra districts of Himachal Pradesh during March, 1990:

(b) if so, whether State Government sought any relief from Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details of relief sought and provided by Union Government?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL):** (a) No report of damage to crops, roads, dislocation of water supply and loss of life and property due to snowfall, hailstorms and rains during March 1990 has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c). No Memorandum seeking Central assistance has been received from the State Government.

#### **'Johal Committee' Recommendations**

5684. S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study about the adverse effect of rotation of rice and wheat crop on environment and employment to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, when the study is likely to be made;

(d) whether 'Johal Committee' has made some recommendations to bring variety in farming in Punjab;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to implement those recommendations;

(f) whether 'Johal Committee' had also recommended 20 to 25 per cent reduction in the area under rice and wheat cultivation;

(g) if so, the names of the crops recommended by the committee for cultivation in this area; and

(h) the action taken thereon?

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL):** (a) At the instance of Government of Punjab study has been made by the expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.S. Johal on the diversification on agriculture in Punjab which *inter alia* includes the effect of rotation of rice and wheat crop on environment and return to the farmers.

(b) The Committee in its findings have observed that the rice crop during kharif and wheat crop during rabi have gained the area on the merits of their return per acre as compared to the crops like maize, pulses, cotton, gram, rapeseed and mustard, barley etc. However, the predominance of paddy-wheat rotation has far-reaching implication on the water balance, deterioration in soil health, proliferation of pests and diseases, intensive use of energy leading to threat of deterioration in the over all agro-ecosystem of the State. Increased area under paddy had led to the lowering of water table. The physical condition of soil has undergone changes due to continued puddling in the paddy fields. As both paddy and wheat have high nutritional requirements, there is depletion of nutrients season after season. There has also emerged a problem of micro-nutrient deficiency in light textured soils particularly of iron in paddy and manganese in wheat crop.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e). The Johal Committee in its recommendation has suggested for the diver-