

sidered the requests of the Federation to enhance the minimum wages for the construction workers ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Federation has written to say that the compensation provided to the workers should not have been less than 4 paise per point rise in the Consumer Price Index Number.

(d) and (e). The issues raised by the Federation have been included in the agenda of the 18th Meeting of the Minimum Wages Advisory Board scheduled to be held on May 9, 1985.

Loss of Foodgrains in West Bengal during Unloading

5252. PROF. M.R. HALDER : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether F.C.I is losing a certain quantity of foodgrains in West Bengal at the time of unloading ; and

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent this loss :

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) At the time of unloading of foodgrains at the destination stations certain amount of losses are noticed in relation to the quantities despatched from the despatching stations and West Bengal destinations are no exception to it :

(b) FCI have taken a number of steps to reduce these shortages which include machine stitching of bags, installation of weigh bridges, avoidance of movement in open wagons, tightening of security measures at loading/unloading rail heads

and surprise checks at various operational points.

Losses in Food Corporation of India

5253. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has been incurring heavy losses at present ;

(b) if so, reasons therefore ; and

(c) details of remedial measures taken to minimise the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Food Corporation of India is making constant efforts to reduce the handling costs to the minimum possible and improve the working results.

Annual Deficit of Hindustan Samachar News Agency

5254. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the annual deficit of Hindustan Samachar News Agency (Co-operative Society) at the time of taking over by Delhi Administration on 10 May, 1982;

(b) the present accumulated deficit of Hindustan Samachar Society;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to make good the deficit;

(d) whether General Manager Swindled nearly one lakh of rupees and absconded; and