

Damage of Foodgrains due to Inadequate Storage Capacity

865. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :
SHRI B. K. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the storage capacity of foodgrains in the country is inadequate due to which a large quantity of foodgrains either becomes rotten or gets damaged on account of improper storage every year;

(b) whether many a time the damaged foodgrains are supplied to the consumers through the fair price shops caring little for their health; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make arrangements for adequate number of godowns during the current Five Year Plan period and the amount earmarked therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The covered storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India is not sufficient to store the foodgrain stocks with the Corporation. As a result, some foodgrain has to be kept by the Corporation in the open under polythene covers. Adequate precautions are taken to protect these stocks against losses. Nevertheless, some losses do take place on this account.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Efforts are on to construct as also hire additional storage capacity for foodgrains. An outlay of Rs. 240.00 crores has been provided for construction of additional storage capacity during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. This would enable an additional capacity of about 5.00 million tonnes to be constructed during the Plan period, of which about 4.00 million tonnes would be available for foodgrains.

Telecast of States Festivals by Doordarshan

866. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the festivals of different States which are covered by the Doordarshan in its live telecast programme;

(b) whether the famous Car festival of Puri and Sitalsasthi festival of Sambalpur in Orissa are among these festivals;

(c) if so, whether live telecast of these two festivals was done this year;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is proposed to be done in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) The Doordarshan Kendras have so far not arranged live telecast of any festival from any part of the country.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) and (e). As per policy, the live television coverages are limited to events of nation-wide topicality such as Republic Day Parade, Independence Day, International Conferences, Visits of eminent world leaders, important sports activities etc. There is no proposal at present to take up live telecasting of festivals of different states.

Setting up of a Council of Labour Cooperatives

867. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up a council of labour cooperatives at the national level is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what is likely to be the council's composition, functions and the role to be played by the council; and

(c) whether any provision to aid the council has been made in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed National Advisory Council of Labour Cooperatives may include representatives of Central and State Governments, cooperatives and work awarding agencies. The Council will be an