

not considered to be the main reason for such shortfall.

(c) The Government have been taking adequate steps by way of providing critical inputs including irrigation, HYV seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, credit and extension services for transfer of technology etc. to the farmers for increasing production of food-grains and other crops for achieving the targets.

The Government have also been taking measures to augment storage facilities to ensure proper storage of foodgrains, etc. In order to improve availability of covered storage capacity, the following steps are being taken:—

- (i) During 1985-86 Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCS) together are expected to construct covered storage capacity of 19.74 lakh tonnes, of which 16.95 lakh tonnes is likely to be available for storage of foodgrains.
- (ii) FCI is also making temporary storage arrangement by hiring additional covered storage capacity from CWC, SWCs and other sources.
- (iii) FCI is exploring the possibility of getting storage capacity constructed through private parties against loans to be given by the Commercial Bank to such parties; and
- (iv) Steps are also being taken to step up utilisation of the available storage capacity by increasing stack height.

[English]

Bifercation of R.C.F.

4481. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to bifurcate the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers, a public sector undertaking, is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised; and

(c) if not, the measure proposed to be taken by Government for more efficient functioning of RCF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). A proposal regarding the reorganisation of some of the public sector fertilizer companies is under active consideration of the Government. A final decision is expected to be taken soon. The progress in this regard is already being monitored by a Parliamentary Committee.

(c) Does not arise.

Collaboration Arrangements between Indian and Italian Firms in the Field of Agriculture

4482. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of collaboration/agreements signed in agriculture sector between Indian and Italian firms-public and private-during 1984-85 and 1985-86, with year-wise details;

(b) the States to whom these projects have been distributed; and

(c) whether Government propose to collaborate in more such projects with Italian assistance in 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) From April 1984 upto December 1985, no agreements were signed in the agriculture sector between Indian and Italian firms, public or private.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Development of collaboration between Indian and Italian firms, public or private, is an ongoing process arising from commercial contacts and considerations.

[Translation]

Setting up of Separate Labour Bench in Bihar

4483. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: