

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) Various steps such as production and distribution of quality planning materials, laying out of demonstration plots on improved agro-techniques, supply of vegetable minikits etc. have been taken up for increasing area under fruits and vegetables. Government of India have released an amount of Rs.61.06 lakhs, 101.46 lakhs and 98.61 lakhs during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87, respectively in this regard.

(c) there is no official estimate of area of fruits and vegetables for different States. However, as per the rough estimate the area under these crops in Orissa for 1985-86 and 1986-87 were 7,86,590 ha. and 8,02,278 ha., respectively.

(d) Various steps such as adoption of plant protection measures, scientific management practices by laying out demonstration plots, *insitu* vegetative propagation techniques viz. budding and grafting; expansion of area by fresh planting and maintenance of old plantations under centrally sponsored scheme or package programme on cashewnut development have been taken up in Orissa.

Grounding of Indian Airlines Planes

321. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL ; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the month of September, 1987, 30 Indian Airlines planes were grounded out of which two had developed serious defects;

(b) if so, the datewise details of such groundings and the fuel loss;

(c) whether a high powered technical enquiry has conducted an enquiry to find out the reasons for such abnormally high rate of groundings; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Amendment to the Delhi Rent Control Act

322. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Landlords under the Delhi Rent Control Act cannot get the tenants evicted easily;

(b) whether the existing Act tilts in favour of tenants; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the existing law to ensure periodic increase in rent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government is proposing to amend the Act with a view to strike a balance between the interest of the landlord and tenants.

Loss of food production due to drought and floods

323. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

SHRI V. TULSIRAM :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to drought and floods foodgrains production will be less by 2 crores tonnes;

(b) if so, how the loss in foodgrains production is proposed to be met;

(c) what impact it will have on agricultural and industrial economy of the country; and

(d) whether imports are contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) Due to widespread drought conditions prevailing in many States as well as floods in some States during the Kharif season, production of foodgrains in 1987-88 is likely to be affected. Firm estimates of Kharif production are not yet due from the States. Sowings of rabi crops are still in progress and as such, it is too early to quantify the likely order of production for 1987-88.

(d) The food situation in the country is constantly under review and the Government keeps open the option to resort to imports as and when considered necessary.

EPF arrears against jute mills

324. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-payment of the employees share of Provident Fund contributions after deducting the amount from the wages of the workers, is an offence of misappropriation of fund and breach of trust under the Indian Penal Code and liable to prosecution;

(b) if so, the number of jute mills prosecuted so far; and

(c) if no action has been taken against defaulting jute mills, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details in this regard are being ascertained and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

Casualties in coal mines

325. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that on an average 200 coal miners die every year and since 1980 about 1300 people have died in mine accidents;

(b) if so, the details of mine owners who have been prosecuted for this, with details of punishments awarded to them; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government for minimising such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) On an average 188 persons lost their lives annually from the year 1980 to 1986 in accidents which occurred in coal mines. The total number of persons killed in these accidents was 1314.

(b) The details are furnished in the Statement given below.

(c) Provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad and his officers inspect mines periodically in order to enforce the statutory provisions in respect of mines safety. The Director General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the mine managements from time to time for adopting safety measures. A standing committee on safety in coal mines headed by the Union Energy Minister reviews from time to time the status of safety in coal mines.