

Loss of Foodgrains Due to Pests Disease and Rodents

565. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the loss of foodgrains in value due to pests, diseases and rodents, etc. during the last three years, State-wise ;

(b) how much of this loss was shared by farmers, Government and insurance companies, State-wise ; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the situation and results obtained ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). There is no mechanism to account for the loss of foodgrains in value due to pests, diseases and rodents etc. as also to assess the share of this loss by farmers, Government and insurance agencies in the country.

(c) The public agencies have been able to minimise the losses by adopting scientific methods of storage practices covering improved godowns, prophylactic and curative treatments of the stored produce, use of dunnage, periodical inspection, aeration etc.

The Department of Food have launched a country-wide Save Grain Campaign for educating, motivating and persuading the farmers to adopt scientific storage practices. It has been noticed that losses are significantly lower, wherever farmers adopt the recommended practices.

Rural Telephone System in Karnataka

566. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rural telephone exchange system designed by C-DOT has been working well in Karnataka for the last one year ;

(b) if so, whether the concerned department has not given clearance to this technology ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Department of Telecommunication has given clearance to this technology.

Withdrawal of Production Control Order on Paper Industry

567. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have withdrawn the production control order on paper industry to help it in resolving its declining financial health problem ; and

(b) if so, the precise circumstances under which the order was with-drawn ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The question of rationalising the distribution of white printing paper to the educational sector had been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past. The paper industry had also represented to the Government that the operation of the statutory orders for supply of white printing paper had adversely affected the financial health of the Industry. Taking into account the difficulties faced in the effective implementation of the scheme and recognising the need to maintain adequate supplies to the educational sector, the Government have introduced an alternative scheme for this purpose. The Paper (Regulation of Production) Order, 1978, and the Paper (Control) Order, 1979, have therefore been repealed with effect from 22nd January, 1987.

H.B.J. Gas Pipeline

568. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the Work pertaining to HBJ gas pipeline ;

(b) whether the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking and the U.P. State Electricity Board have sent any proposals to utilise the gas from HBJ Pipeline ; and