

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Information is awaited from the State Government.

Procurement of Paddy in Punjab

6622. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for procurement of paddy from Punjab for the Central pool during the current year;

(b) the quantity of paddy procured till January, 1988; and

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target fixed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA) : (a) to (c). No target for the procurement of paddy is fixed as paddy is procured under price support.

A quantity of 6.81 lakh tonnes of paddy was purchased in Punjab by the public agencies till January, 1988.

Bharat Refractories at Pithoragarh

6623. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent so far on investigation and mining etc. of Magnesite at Devalthal in district Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether mines tunnel etc. have also been constructed after having acquired the agricultural land in this area;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the construction work on Bharat Refractories building for which foundation stone had been laid at this place; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid any further delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Bharat Refractories Limited has spent a total sum of Rs. 1.64 crores on Pithoragarh Magnesite Project at Devlathal upto 31.3.1988.

(b) No, Sir. No tunnel has been constructed so far.

(c) and (d). A reassessment of the cost of the project and a review of the demand and availability of dead burnt magnesite has indicated that the project is no longer viable.

[English]

Industry Status to Tourism by States

6624. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given on 25 April, 1986 to Unstarred Question No. 7813 regarding report of working group on benefits and incentives to tourism industry and state :

(a) the response of the States so far for declaring tourism as an industry; and

(b) the progress made in the setting up of restaurants and shops at selected places where foreign goods are made available for sale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) As a result of persuasion from the Ministry of Tourism the States of Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Bihar, Tripura, Assam and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar have declared Tourism as Industry, while the States of West Bengal, Orissa and Rajasthan have declared hotels as industry.

(b) ITDC is operating ten duty free shops at Arrival and Departure lounges of International Airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Trivandrum. In addition, a tax free shop in Samrat Hotel, New Delhi is also being operated to cater to the needs of diplomatic community and hotels against import licences,