

any demand for opening a Central University in Himachal Pradesh this year ;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon ; and

(c) the time by which this Central University is likely to be sanctioned/set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to establish a Central University in Himachal Pradesh.

Losses of National Seeds Corporation

2399. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Seeds Corporation has suffered a loss of Rs. 5 crores during 1987-88 ;

(b) the accumulated loss sustained by the Corporation as on 31 May, 1988 ;

(c) the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether there has been an unprecedented decline in the production and marketing activities of the Corporation for the last two years ;

(e) the value of seeds condemned in the North-East Region and the reasons therefor ;

(f) whether any inquiry has been or is

being made into the declining status of the Corporation ; and

(g) the steps taken to make it a viable public undertaking ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). As the Annual Accounts of National Seeds Corporation for the year 1987-88 are yet to be finalised, it is not possible to indicate the exact loss suffered during 1987-88 and the accumulated loss sustained upto 31st May, 1988.

(c) Some of the main reasons for losses are :

(i) Attractive prices paid to farmers.

(ii) Increase in prices of input without corresponding increase in the sale prices of seed.

(iii) Increase in fixed overhead expenses on account of general price hike and payment of D.A. and interim relief to the employee of the Corporation.

(iv) Heavy interest burden.

(v) Under utilization of infrastructural facilities created under NSP Phase-I and II due to, lack of demand because of drought condition.

(d) No, Sir. The marketing activities have not declined in the last two years as is evident from the following figures :

| Year | Quantity marketed in lakh quintals | Value of seeds marketed in crores of rupees |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1986-87 | 4.39 | 27.32 |
| 1987-88 (Provisional) | 8.70 | 43.88 |

(e) The value of seed condemned in North-Eastern Region in 1986-87 was Rs. 25.17 lakhs.

The main reason for condemnation is rapid deterioration in quality due to high humidity problem.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The following steps have been taken :

(i) adoption of package of scientific practices for increasing productivity ;

- (ii) improving the product mix of seeds by increasing vegetable seeds production which are relatively more profitable ;
- (iii) importing high yielding hybrids ;
- (iv) introducing economy measures like ban on recruitment etc. ;
- (v) introduction of "Quality Circle" to improve the workers of the Corporation.

Improvement of G.T. Road in West Bengal

2400. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the G.T. Road from Asansol to Howrah is in very bad shape and needs extensive repairs and re-carpeting ;

(b) if so, whether any provision has been made in the current plan to improve this road where there is very heavy traffic ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and when this work is likely to be taken up and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) N.H. No. 2 between Asansol and Calcutta is generally in traffic worthy condition. However, certain portions of the road falling within the Municipal limits, for which this Ministry is not responsible, have been damaged. There are also some damages in other sections because of rains.

(b) and (c). In Annual Plan 1988-89 there is provision for strengthening in a length of 15 Kms. at an estimated cost of Rs. 105 lakhs. Estimates for the same are being awaited from the State Government.

Merger of MECON with SAIL

2401. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (MECON) is passing through a lean period as it has not got sufficient consultancy work in hand to sustain

it at present ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to merge it with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) ; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to make it a viable unit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir. The performance of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Limited (MECON) has been steadily improving over the years. The profits for the last three years are given below :

| | (Rs. in Crores) |
|---------|-----------------|
| 1984-85 | 12.02 |
| 1985-86 | 12.14 |
| 1986-87 | 12.97 |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) MECON is already a viable and profitable organisation.

Funds for Children Nutrition Programme

2402. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government monitors the utilisation of funds made available by the Centre to the States for children's nutrition programme ;

(b) if so, in how many cases, during 1987 the funds were not utilised fully with the names of the State ;

(c) in how many cases, the States were put to difficulty because of late release of funds ; and

(d) whether during the last three years the coverage of the programme could be expanded and if so, State-wise break up of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINIS-