

institution of national character from its very inception. Representations have, however, been made from time to time for declaring it as a minority institution. The representations are under consideration.

Foodgrains Reserved with Government

15. DR. VASANT KUMAR
PANDIT:

SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of Foodgrains reserve with the Government as on today;

(b) how much of the above stored foodgrains were damaged, lost, or destroyed during 1976-77 due to (i) lack of storage capacity, (ii) by rats and rodents, (iii) in transit; and (iv) deterioration in godowns; and

(c) what is the policy of the Government regarding foodgrains reserve for the coming year, and what arrangements are made to prevent loss or damage?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) The stocks of foodgrains with the Central and State Governments as on 1st April, 1977 have been provisionally estimated at 18 million tonnes. Out of this, approximately 16 million tonnes were held by the Food Corporation of India, valued at Rs. 2180 crores. The value of the balance of 1 million tonnes held by the State Government is estimated to be about Rs. 270 crores.

(b) It is not feasible technically to assess foodgrains lost separately under different heads such as lack of proper storage capacity, losses due to rats and rodents and deterioration in godowns etc. It is also not possible at this stage to give information about the total quantity of foodgrains

damaged, lost and destroyed during 1976-77 as the accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the year have not yet been closed.

(c) A Technical Group headed by the Union Food Secretary was appointed by the Government to go into all aspects of the buffer stocking of foodgrains. It has recommended that a minimum buffer stock of 12 million tonnes should eventually be built by the end of the Fifth Plan. However, it also took the view that keeping in view constraints of resources and the storage accommodation, the buffer stock for the next two-three years may be taken on a slightly lower figure of 10 million tonnes. This will be over and above the operational stock required for the maintenance of the Public Distribution System. The report of the Technical Group is being examined by the Government.

Various steps have been/are being taken to improve storage situation by constructing additional scientific storage capacity by the public agencies. Private sector is also being encouraged to build godowns for being hired out to the Food Corporation of India. Qualified and technically trained staff are deployed for periodical inspections and proper upkeep of foodgrains.

Expenditure on 1, Safdarjung Road New Delhi

16. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Government on additions and alterations made in bungalow No. 1, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi occupied by the former Prime Minister during the period of her stay;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the other adjoining bungalows which had been taken for office and security purposes;