

Fire in the Government of India Press, Simla

3842. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office block of the Government of India Press at Simla was gutted in January, 1977;

(b) the extent of loss suffered;

(c) whether some very important papers were also burnt and if so, the nature thereof; and

(d) whether some enquiry was ordered to look into the causes of the fire and if so, the findings thereof and precautionary measures adopted to check recurrence of such incidence of fire?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the Office Block was gutted on the 20th January, 1977.

(b) About Rs. 5 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir. The records relating to Stores, Cash, Accounts and Computing Sections were destroyed by fire.

(d) Yes, Sir. The case was reported to Police, apart from a Spot-Study by an Officer of the Directorate of Printing, New Delhi. The Police have given its findings that the fire broke out accidentally and no foul play or negligence could be attributed to any one. To prevent recurrence of such incidents, action to provide an extra tank to store water for fire fighting has been taken. Extra fire fighting equipment is also being installed by the CPWD as per advice of the fire fighting officials.

Stock of Basmati Rice with F.C.I.

3843. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of basmati rice in stock with the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether the growers of rice have since been paid the full amount of the rice procured from them and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India has sufficient storage capacity to store the rice so procured and if not, where the rice procured has been stored; and

(d) whether it is proposed to distribute basmati rice through fair price shops to consumers in ration and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Food Corporation of India have about 2300 tonnes of Basmati Rice in stock.

(b) The Food Corporation of India does not purchase Basmati paddy from growers or rice from millers directly. The State Governments collect Basmati rice from traders/millers if offered under levy and hand over to the Food Corporation of India for the Central Pool. As such the question of direct payment by the F.C.I. to the cultivators does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Compared to the total stock of rice required for distribution through the public distribution system, the quantity of basmati rice available is very meagre. Therefore, there is no proposal to distribute basmati rice separately through the public distribution system. Whatever quantity of basmati rice available in the Central

Pool is issued through the public distribution system after merging it with other long slender varieties of rice.

Literacy among Women

3844. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many women got literate in India State-wise during 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76 under the Education Ministry's programme of the Adult Literacy campaign;

(b) how much Government had spent during this programme in the above mentioned period and which voluntary organisations were given this money to conduct the adult literacy campaign among women;

(c) whether Government have ever evaluated how far these literates retain their knowledge of reading and writing after the completion of attending literacy classes; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce new system in order to retain the interest of new literates in study and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cooperative Farming

3845. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop cooperative farming for the poorer section of the peasantry; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The Government of India do not have any scheme for development of Cooperative Farming.

Acute Shortage of Water Supply in Gole Market Area

3846. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute short supply of water in seven-storeyed residential houses of Estate Office in Gole Market and there are also insanitary conditions near the houses;

(b) whether despite the letters written by the Members of Parliament to higher officers in this regard, the officers of C.P.W.D. have done nothing in this matter; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) There was shortage of water in May and June when the supply from the municipal mains was inadequate. However, there is no shortage at present. Nor are the conditions near the houses insanitary.

(b) and (c). The matter was taken up with the NDMC and now there is no shortage of water supply in this area.

Provision of Specification Door from Security Point of View in Gole Market Area

3847. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doors provided in the Ground Floor houses of seven-