

**Agreement with Vietnam on Buffalo Research Institute**

3799. SHRI JANARDHANAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with Vietnam to set up a Research Institute on buffalo; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the agreement, through the letters exchanged in September, 1977 between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Government of India has agreed to assist the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in establishing a Buffalo Breeding & Research Centre in Viet Nam under the ITEC Programme of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been nominated as the implementing agency for the establishment of this Centre. According to the agreement, the Indian side is to meet all expenditure on the supply and transportation of equipment, including some livestock initially for the Centre. It has also to meet the cost of training Vietnamese experts in India, including the cost of their accommodation, maintenance and local transport. In addition, the Indian side has also to make available the services of Indian Experts for the establishment of the Centre.

**Foodgrains in Stock**

3800. SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) how much foodgrains is in the stock of the Government for future use;

(b) what are proposals to purchase and store more foodgrains out of the ensuing wheat crop and at what rate; and

(c) is Government facing some wastage of foodgrains in the storage godowns and if so, what steps the Government have proposed to solve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) As on 1-11-78, the estimated stocks of foodgrains with all the public agencies in the country were of the order of 16.4 million tonnes.

(b) The price and procurement policy of wheat for 1979-80 marketing season is under consideration and a decision will be taken soon. Purchases of wheat from the ensuing crop would be done by way of price support operations.

(c) Despite all precautions, some wastage of foodgrains in godowns, takes place. The following steps are taken to minimise this wastage:—

(i) the godowns constructed are made rat-proof, white ant-proof and damp-proof;

(ii) pre-monsoon inspection of godowns is carried out and repairs undertaken to prevent leakage of rain water;

(iii) qualified and technically trained staff are deployed for periodical inspection, fumigation and proper upkeep of stocks; and

(iv) modern scientific pest control measures are undertaken to check insect, rodent and bird trouble.

**Housing Loans to Orissa**

3801. SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand (in terms of money) made by the Orissa Govern-