

.. Milling of Paddy in Punjab

2446. SHRI GURCHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bags of paddy lying with the F.C.I. in Punjab at present;

(b) the steps being taken by the F.C.I. for milling the paddy and how much damage has been estimated for not keeping paddy properly under roof; and

(c) what action is contemplated against the defaulting officials?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) As on 1-5-1980, a quantity of 18.35 lakh tonnes of paddy is lying with F.C.I. in Punjab, out of which 15.11 lakh tonnes is stored under CAP storage (Cover and Plinth).

(b) and (c). All possible steps are being taken to get the paddy milled early where considered justified, the millers are being offered reasonably higher rates; paddy is being moved out of Punjab to other States where milling capacity is available. A total quantity of 59,740 tonnes of paddy was moved out of Punjab during 1979-80 Kharif season to other States. Other steps like requisitioning of milling capacity are also being considered.

While it is obligatory for the Corporation to purchase all the quantities of paddy offered under the Price Support Scheme, the covered storage capacity available with F.C.I. in Punjab is not sufficient to keep all the stocks in covered godowns. The covered storage is mostly utilised for storage of rice and sugar which cannot be stored outside.

A quantity of about 29,286 tonnes of paddy has been affected in Punjab out of which a quantity of 570 tonnes has been declared as damaged. While all efforts are made to keep

store in CAP in safe condition, damage to the stock sometimes occurs due to reasons beyond the control of the Corporation, namely natural calamities, untimely heavy rains, floods etc. It is not considered appropriate to attribute the losses that may occur in such cases, to officials.

Chilka Development work in Orissa.

2447. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to start Chilka Development work in Orissa during 1980-81;

(b) whether some amount was provided in 1979-80 for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the amount so far spent and the progress therein?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) There is no proposal with Orissa Government at present for taking up Development of Chilka lake during 1980-81.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Universal Primary Education

2448. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) progress to-date of the implementation, State-wise, of the constitutional directive to bring all the school going children of the age group 6-11 under the scope of Universal Primary Education;

(b) whether some States are lagging behind others in this regard; and

(c) if so, factors responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):