

Loss of wheat crop due to rain in Punjab

1930. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent heavy rains in Punjab have damaged the wheat crop at many places;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of the damage caused has been made; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the anticipated bumper crops from any major damage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). It is a fact that the recent heavy rains in Punjab have damaged the wheat crop, but such damage is confined to an area of about 93,000 hectares out of a total of about 28 lakhs hectares of wheat area in Punjab. The Punjab Government has organised a special girdawari for the assessment of the precise damage with a view to providing relief on the scale approved by the State Government.

Protection of Monuments

1931. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India is at present protecting less than a fourth of the 15,000 known monuments of artistic and historical importance in the country;

(b) whether the States are not allotting adequate funds or taking care resulting in the decay of the monuments and innumerable precious idols and carvings being removed over the years and shipped off to the West; and

(c) whether Government have at any time considered the expediency of enlisting the aid of interested private concerns just like the trust looking after the Meenakshi Temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) The Central Government is responsible for the maintenance of only such ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains as have been declared to be of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (24 of 1958), their number is 3477.

(b) Maintenance of the ancient and historical monuments other than those declared to be of national importance and protected under the relevant State laws is the responsibility of the respective State Governments. Necessary measures are taken under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 for preventing fraudulent dealings in and smuggling of antiquities.

(c) No, Sir.

शीत लहर के कारण मृत्यु

1932. श्री आर. एन. रावेश :

श्री एन. ई. होरो :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने को तैयार करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल की शीत लहर के कारण अनेक गरब लोगों को मृत्यु हो गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, राजस्थान और उड़ीसा में शीत लहर से कितने व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई है ;

(ग) पिछले वर्ष के आकड़ों की तुलना में इस वर्ष इन राज्यों में शीत-लहर में मरे व्यक्तियों के आकड़े क्या हैं ; और