

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e). All the allottees including those who might have applied earlier for transfer of the tenements allotted to them on perpetual lease hold basis, but no lease was executed in pursuance thereof, shall have to submit fresh applications. This is necessary to ensure that the lease hold rights are given to the regular allottees and not to the unauthorised occupants.

Post Harvest Stages of Foodgrains

7950. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that foodgrains upto 10 per cent and other agro-products from 20 to 30 per cent are wasted after harvesting of crops;

(b) if so, what is assessment of loss of crops on that account; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose or have suggested in this regard and with what result?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) to (c). Although no precise or reliable estimates are available for the country as a whole on post-harvest losses of foodgrains and other agro-products, experts estimated that losses could be of the order mentioned by Hon'ble Member. Reliable data on the quantitative and qualitative losses at the post-harvest phase are however yet to be collected in different States of the country and for individual crops.

The following steps are being taken to minimise losses of foodgrains at various stages:—

1. The storage structures/godowns are constructed by the public sector organisations on scientific lines and modern technique are adopted for preservation of foodgrains to elimi-

nate losses during storage. Proper plannings in regard to movement of stocks is ensured so as to reduce infructuous movement and losses in transit. Covered wagons are used as far as possible.

2. For preservation of foodgrains at farm level where major portion of the foodgrains produced in the country is retained, a phased country-wide Save Grain Campaign programme is under implementation for education, motivation and persuasion of farmers to adopt modern storage practices to minimise losses.

Extinction of Kathiawari Horses

7951. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the attractive Kathiawari horses are dwindling numerically and there is a fear of this distinguished race being lost for ever; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to ensure the survival of this breed of horses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). According to information received from the Government of Gujarat, there is a decline in the number of horses in the Kathiawar region and the State Government proposes the following steps to preserve/propagate this breed:—

(1) Strengthening of horse breeding farm at Junagarh;

(2) Opening of additional centres for providing service facilities to owners of horses through quality stallions; and

(3) Setting up of horse breeders' association to look after the interests of horse breeders and Kathiawari horses.