

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

Casualties caused due to uncovered Manholes

1204. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths caused by uncovered manholes in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons who received serious injuries due to uncovered manholes during the above period;

(c) the number of cases registered on the above accounts and the convictions made; and

(d) the compensation if any given to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Conversion of Viceregal lodge at Simla into a Five Star Hotel

1205. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Viceregal lodge in Simla is proposed to be converted into a hotel to cater to the needs of the forthcoming international conferences going to be held in India and also to meet the need for a five-star hotel in the 'queen of the hill stations';

(b) if so, the suitability of the building for the purpose; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c) A suggestion to con-

vert the former Viceregal Lodge Simla into a hotel is under examination. No decision has been taken so far.

Committee to suggest preventive measures to avoid losses of foodgrains

1206. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level roving team with wide-ranging powers has been constituted by Government to investigate the causes of losses of foodgrain, and suggest immediate preventive measures;

(b) whether any kind of assessment can be made on the benefits of this scheme, and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other steps being considered or put into action to effectively cover these food-grain losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, in 1966 an expert Committee reviewed the causes of losses of food-grains during post-harvest operations. The losses in storage have been identified to be due to rodents, birds, insects and moisture.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps to prevent post harvest losses. These are:—

(1) establishment of 17 Save Grain Campaign teams to popularise the scientific storage practices in rural areas.

(2) establishment of Indian Grain Storage Institute at Hapur and its five field stations located at, Ludhiana (Pun- jab), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Jor- hat (Assam), Jabalpur (Madhya Pra- desh), Udaipur (Rajasthan) to develop appropriate code of practices for pre- vention of losses.

(3) assistance to various State Gov- ernments in the form of loans and Grant- in-Aid to improve farm level storage.

(4) establishment of Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations to handle and store the foodgrains at the national level on scientific lines.

Neglect of indigenous breeds of bullocks

1207. SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report by M.K. Tikku regarding neglect of the indigenous breeds of bullocks in the country that appeared in Far Eastern Economic Review: September 10, 1982; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the disastrous economic consequences which are going to affect country's cart transport system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Cattle breeding policy has been periodically reviewed by appropriate bodies of experts/scientists keeping in view the country's milk and draught power requirements. Based on recommendations by National Commission on Agriculture (1976 Report), the breeding policy recommended in the Sixth Plan document envisages that cross-breeding may not be taken up in the home tracts of well-defined indigenous cattle breeds, where selective breeding be adopted for improvement of cattle. This breeding policy will not have an adverse effect on availability of overall draught power.

Supply of foodgrains to States

1208. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a request from Tamil Nadu for 80,000 tonnes of rice per month to tide over the tight food situation in the State;

(b) which other States have requested for foodgrains; and

(c) what steps Government have planned for the recipient States to receive the foodgrains and the basis of this Central pool aid to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI): (a) The Government of Tamil Nadu have requested for allotment of 80,000 tonnes of rice from the Central Pool for October, 1982 in view of the failure of South-West Monsoon resulting in shortfall in cultivation and production and likely increase in offtake of rice under the public distribution system in the coming months.

(b) A statement showing the demand for foodgrains received from various States/Union Territories for the month of October, 1982 is attached.

(c) The State Governments/Union Territories are requested to intimate every month their realistic requirements of foodgrains from the Central Pool for issue through the public distribution system, after taking into account the stocks available with them and procured by them locally. The allotment of foodgrains to the various States is made on a month to month basis taking into account the overall availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, market availability and other related factors.

Monthly allocation orders are issued 10 to 12 days in advance of the commencement of the month to which the allocation relates, to ensure timely supplies by the Food Corporation of India to the State Governments for distribution to the Fair price shops.

Food Corporation of India also maintains adequate reserve stocks of foodgrains at their godowns in all parts of the country to meet the requirements of the public distribution system.

Movement of foodgrains to all the States is regularly monitored by a composite high-level Group to ensure conformity with movement programme and availability at the districts and depots.