

75 grams on the negative side. The enquiries reveal that in some stray cases the weight of gunny bag was less than that prescribed under ISI specification. Instructions had been issued by the State Government of Punjab that gunny bags which are according to ISI specifications should be used. At the time of weighment, the platform scale or beam scale is adjusted according to the weight of one gunny bag picked at random from the bale. In this way the farmers may not suffer a loss due to short weight because only one quintal of naked grains is taken and the weight of the gunny bag is computed according to the actual weight of gunny bag. Information on the gunny bags used by private traders in Punjab is not readily available.

Fall in Coconut Production

9485. SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the highest average yield-recorded was 7012 nuts per hectare in 1953-54 has now fallen to about 5500 nuts per hectares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 20% of coconut is affected by coconut wilt disease which has reduced production from 1953-54 level;

(c) whether it is a fact that for a similar disease, Jamaica has overcome the problem; and

(d) if so, reasons for failure to tackle our problem even after independence ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The coconut disease in Jamaica is considerably different in symptoms from the coconut root wilt disease found in Kerala. According to information available, two approaches

viz., injecting tetracycline antibiotics and planting of Malsyan Dwarf Coconut have been attempted to counteract the disease in Jamaica, but the resistance of Malsyan Dwarf is not absolute. To what extent the disease in Jamaica has been overcome is not yet known.

(d) The Question does not arise.

Unauthorised Cremation Ground in Pitampura

9486. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether an unauthorised cremation ground exists in 100 sq. yds. land in the midst of the residential area in Pitampura near Sarswati Vihar and other colonies, which is a great health hazard;

(b) whether a decision was taken to shift the same to some other suitable place long ago;

(c) if so, why the cremation ground has not been shifted so far; and

(d) when the cremation ground will be shifted ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Import/Consumption of Pesticides

9487. SHRI SHANTUBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of pesticides imported during the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of pesticides used State-wise during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) As contained in the publication 'Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade