

**Allegation against Managing Director
Punjab State Agro-Industries Corporation**

1233. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints against the Managing Director, Punjab State Agro-Industries Corporation;

(b) if so, the nature of complaints received ;

(c) whether Government have since inquired into these complaints ; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints relate to administrative and general matters concerning the Punjab Agro-Industries Corporation.

(c) and (d). The complaints are being forwarded to the State Government.

Damage to crops due to Insects, diseases, dust storm and rain.

1234. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK** :

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding crops damaged during the current year by insects, plant diseases and dust-storm and rains in the country, State-wise ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the protection of crops?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNA SAHEB P. SHINDE)** :

(a) It is extremely difficult to accurately

assess the loss in crop yield which is due only to damage by insects, pests, plant diseases, etc. The crop may be attacked by one or more insects, diseases, etc., and depending on control measures taken, its yield may be affected in varying degrees. It is, however, estimated that losses to foodgrain crops in the field on account of damage by insects, pests, diseases, weeds, etc. and in storage range between 15 to 20%.

There were reports of hail storms, thunder storms, dust storms of high intensity and rain from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana in April and May, 1971. The Damage was mostly to the harvested wheat lying on the threshing floor to the extent of 20 to 25% in Bihar, 10 to 15% in Punjab and Haryana and 20 to 25% in Uttar Pradesh. This assessment of damage is a general one. No report of any serious damage has been received from Rajasthan. There has also been damage to other crops like mangoes, melons, vegetables, etc.

(b) For the protection of crops against pests and diseases, the State Governments have their own plant protection organisations fully equipped with necessary plant protection equipment and material. In addition, there are nine Central Plant Protection Stations for taking control measures against crop pests and diseases. It is reported that the State Governments have taken control measures over an area of 3.95 Lakh hectares affected by epidemics in 1970-71. The Government of India gives grant to the extent of 50% and Loan to the extent of 25% on the cost of pesticides used in the control of crop epidemics occurring in the States.

For eradication of pests and diseases on crops in endemic areas, a centrally sponsored scheme was started during 1970-71 with a total outlay of Rs. 4.30 crores for the 4th plan. Under this scheme, an area of 12.95 Lakh acres was covered by the agro-chemical operations in 1970-71.

As for the unseasonal rains, the Government are aware of the need for improving the post-harvest handling and storage at producer's level and have been considering steps that are to be taken in this regard. So far as damage to the wheat by recent rains is concerned, it is reported that the damage is more in terms of quality than quantity. In order to give relief to the producers, the Government have relaxed the specifications for procurement of wheat in order to facilitate purchase of the rain-damaged wheat.

**Closure of Kalipahari Colliery
West Bengal**

1235. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK** : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kalipahari Colliery, West Bengal, has been closed down by its management;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the number of workers affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to re-open the mine.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

National Institute of Labour

1236. **SHRI S.M. KRISHNA** :
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission has agreed to the proposal of his Mantralaya to convert Indian Labour Institute into National Institute of Labour;

(b) if so, how far the change will benefit the labour class; and

(c) when it is likely to be done ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) The Planning Commission has approved the Fourth Plan project for the establishment of an autonomous National Labour Institute in which the existing Indian Institute of Labour Studies will stand merged.

(b) The National Labour Institute will undertake broad-based training and orientation programmes for personnel concerned with labour matters, alike in managements, trade unions and Government administrations. It will also undertake research and consultancy functions, and bring out publications, of common interest to all, including labour.

(c) Necessary steps to establish the National Labour Institute are in hand.

**Reported Statement of Chief Minister
Punjab for a price freeze of Agriculture
Inputs**

1237. **SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Chief Minister of Punjab pleading for a price freeze of agricultural inputs at the 1968 price level in view of the fact that the Government of India had retained the last year's procurement price for wheat ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir, However, it is a fact that the procurement price of wheat for 1971-72 has been retaj-