

libed in the National Forest Policy Resolution of 1952, by Consolidation of holdings and by bringing under forests all available lands such as waste lands panchayat and Panchayat Samiti lands ravines, canal banks, etc.

Man-days lost due to Strikes and lockouts

1258. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of man-days lost during the last three years (year-wise) on account of strikes and lock-outs; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to improve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The number of man-days lost (in millions) during 1968, 1969 and 1970 on account of strikes and lockouts was respectively 17.28, 19.05 and 17.17 (provisional).

(b) The main effort is to minimise industrial disputes through the processes of preliminary discussions, as informal mediation, conciliation, and adjudication or arbitration, as necessary, under the existing statutory and voluntary arrangements; Government have also been holding discussions with the worker's and employers' representatives with a view to evolving agreed measures for securing improvements in the industrial relations system.

Ground water exploration in Orissa.

1259. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has taken up independently any area in Orissa for ground water exploration; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b) Central Ground Water Board (formerly Exploratory Tubewell, Organisation) did groundwater exploration work in Orissa in the years 1958-59, 1962-63, 1963-64 and 1964-65. Exploratory work was done in districts Balasore, Cuttack, Mayur Bhanj and Puri. In all 34 Exploratory bores were sunk of which 21 were developed as full-fledged wells and handed over to the State Government and remaining 13 being unsuccessful were abandoned. (A list giving the details is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-303/71])

This year exploratory work is to be taken up in districts Dhankanal and Bolangir. Arig has been sent and work is to start shortly at Kumunda site.

Buffer Stock of Sugar

1260. SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a buffer stock of sugar in the country; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). Government have removed control on price and distribution of sugar with effect from the 25th of May 1971 except that releases of sugar for sale by factories will continue to be regulated. By a process of judicious releases it will be ensured that a reserve stock of sugar always remain with the factories to meet future contingencies.