

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b). Consequent on the withdrawal of the United States Transport Planes with effect from 18.7.1971, which were commissioned for a stipulated period of one month only, the I. A. F. planes have now been entrusted with the work of transporting food-grains and relief supplies from Gauhati to Tripura and lifting refugees on their return journey.

(c) Only U. S. S. A. planes are operating from Calcutta to Mana.

Damage to U. S. A. Plane Carrying Bangla Desh Refugees

7877. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :
SHRI K. MALLANNA :
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :

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

(a) whether one U. S. A. plane which was carrying Bangla Desh refugees was damaged by the Pakistani forces as reported in *Times of India* dated the 20th July, 1971; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Studies Conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research Regarding Deficiency of Zinc in U. P. and Punjab

7878. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :
SHRI K. MALLANNA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many valuable results have come out of researches conducted on crop schedules and rotations at 41 Model Agronomic Centres through-out the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether studies under Co-ordinated Micronutrient Research Scheme launched by

the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have shown widespread deficiency of Zinc in a number of district in U. P., Punjab etc ; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): Yes Sir.

(b) Labour intensive and highly remunerative multiple cropping rotations have been tested and perfected at various Model Agronomic Centres located in different parts of the country. Results of such relations were reported from 19 research centres. As far as grain crop, oil seeds and pulses are concerned more than one third of the centres produced in excess of 10 tonnes per hectare. The highest production was obtained in Kathulia Farm (M.P.) with a crop sequence of Maize-Wheat-Cheena which gave a total yield of 15.5 tonnes of grain per hectare. Other highly productive three-crop sequence were Maize-Lahi-Wheat-Cheena at Pantnagar (13.5 tonnes/ha). Even with a two crop sequence, it was possible to produce as much as 12 tonnes of grain/ha. at Maruteru (A. P.) with the successive rice crops, by proper selection of the varieties. At this centre two rice crops gave higher aggregate yields than three crops of rice grown per year which brings out clearly that with multiple cropping it is possible to obtain many times more production per unit land per year by making use of high yielding varieties, balanced use of fertilisers, pesticides and proper soil and water management practices.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Extensive deficiency of zinc has been observed in the districts of Ludhiana, Patiala and Jullundur of Punjab ; Nainital, Azamgarh, Balia, Deoria, Ghazipur, Kanpur and Basti districts of Uttar Pradesh, Kurnool, Karim Nagar, Hyderabad, Nizamabad and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh and Hissar, Rohtak, Ambala and Karnal Districts of Haryana. Large number of zinc deficiency cases have been reported from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat and other States also.

It has also been observed that the deficiency of zinc reduces the yield of crops particularly of some high yielding varieties and it gets