

Fire in Hindustan Housing Factory in South Delhi

1950. SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a big fire broke out in the premises of the Hindustan Housing Factory in South Delhi on the 30th June, 1976;

(b) whether the fire could not be brought under control even after eleven hours; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fire again erupted the same evening, and

(d) if so, the causes of fire and loss to the factory property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI H K L BHAGAT) (a) to (d). A fire was noticed in the premises of the Hindustan Housing Factory in the morning 30th June, 1976 at about 2.45 A.M. Immediately the fire tenders were notified and they reached the spot at 3.13 A.M. and brought the fire under control by about 2.10 P.M. Fire fighting operations took a long time because water had to be fetched from a considerable distance. A small fire again erupted in the evening but was immediately brought under control. The cause of the fire as given by the Fire Adviser, Government of India, was spontaneous combustion in saw dust heap due to excessive heat generated within. The loss to the factory is estimated to be about Rs. 1,05,000 at book value.

Effect of 'Smut' Disease on Wheat Crop

1951. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was serious attack of 'Smut' disease on wheat crop during the last rabi season; and

(b) if so, the total damage to the wheat crop?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) and (b). There was incidence of loose 'smut' on wheat in the States of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Punjab and Orissa during rabi season of 1975-76. Reliable estimates of losses caused by loose 'smut' are not available.

Illegal Trade in Skins

1952 SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article in a local Daily of 2nd August, 1976 regarding illegal trade in skins; and

(b) action Government propose to take against Air France and its Officer allegedly indulging in this illegal trade of skins?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 22-4-75, 73 bales of Reptile and Wild Animal skins including Jackal skins valued at Rs. 6,45,000 being attempted to be smuggled out by Air France flight were seized partly at Palam Airport and partly in the Air France Cargo Warehouse at the airport. Four staff members of Air France were arrested. In this seizure case, action is being taken under the Customs Act 1962.

Handing over of Kalkaji Bengali Rehabilitation Colony to D.D.A.

1953 SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for handing over Kalkaji Bengali Rehabilitation Colony including disposal