

TURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1519/67].

SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

262. SHRI D. C. SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers in the industrial and commercial establishments will receive a subsistence allowance while under suspension; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI):

(a) Yes, in respect of workers in establishments in the central sphere covered by the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946;

(b) A copy of the notification issued by this Ministry in this behalf is placed on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1520/67].

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS BY RATS

263. SHRI D. C. SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average about 10 per cent of the annual grain production is lost after it has been harvested because of faulty handling and storage;

(b) whether it is a fact that rodents and insects are the main causes of the loss and they eat up 5.5 per cent of the food produced during storage;

(c) whether any attention has been paid to check this colossal loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The Expert Committee constituted by the Government has, in an interim report submitted to the Government, estimated the loss during the post-harvest handling of foodgrains at 9.33%.

As far as the foodgrains handled by the Government are concerned, the average annual loss is less than 1%.

(b) Yes Sir; the Expert Committee has estimated that the loss on account of insects and rodents is 5.05%.

(c) Every effort is being made to ensure that the loss is minimized.

(d) Following are the details of the steps taken:—

- (i) It has been ensured that all the pesticides and equipment required for protection of foodgrains in storage against pests are manufactured in the country and are readily available to the users.
- (ii) Every possible effort is made to see that new storage godowns constructed are rodent and damp-proof. As far as farm storage is concerned, use of better rodent-proof receptacles and fumigation of grains are being popularised.
- (iii) A nation-wide 'Save Grain Campaign' was launched wherein scientific techniques of better storage were demonstrated in important grain markets and at some rural centres.
- (iv) Training and research activities relating to grain storage have been encouraged and it is proposed to further extend these facilities with the help of the United Nations Special Development Fund.
- (v) Steps have been taken to make it obligatory on the Roller Flour Millers, Rice Millers and grain stockists to adopt pest control measures on their premises.
- (vi) The State Governments and various other agencies handling foodgrains have been advised of the benefits of anti-coagulants for controlling rat trouble and the importance of scientific/modern storage of foodgrains and exhorted to take measures actively for reducing the losses.