

area of 12.5 million acres under the cultivation of high-yielding varieties of paddy by the end of 1970-71. This area is expected to give an estimated additional production of about 8.5 million tonnes of rice. The high-yielding varieties of paddy were raised over an area of 2.2 million acres during 1966-67 and 4.41 million acres during 1967-68. The tentative target for 1968-69 has been fixed at 8.5 million acres.

The High-Yielding Varieties Programme has been taken up in areas having irrigation facilities or assured rainfall. The participating farmers are assured the needed inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, credit etc. Arrangements have also been made to train the farmers in the adoption of the package of practices recommended for the high-yielding varieties of paddy. Under the Multiple Cropping Programme initiated from 1967-68, two or even three crops of paddy are being raised instead of a single crop of paddy in areas having necessary irrigation facilities.

HANDLING OF FOODGRAINS AT NARAINA DEPOT, DELHI

6367. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the period from the 18th June, 1968 to the 31st July, 1968, the Food Department paid through the Food Corporation of India a sum of Rs. 19,636 to labour in addition to losses due to demurrage on account of the handling cost at Naraina Depot, Delhi;

(b) whether the expenditure incurred is six times of what would have been paid to the contractor if it had been done through him;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

(SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):

(a) No, Sir; the Food Department has made no such payment.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

HANDLING OF FOODGRAINS AT NARAINA DEPOT, DELHI

6368. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the agreement on handling of foodgrains at Naraina Depot, Delhi in the event of failure of the contractor to carry out the agreement, he is made responsible for the payment of only the excess of the rates paid to another agency engaged at his risk and not for demurrage etc. on the foodgrains;

(b) if so, who is responsible for the losses of demurrage; and

(c) the steps which Government propose to take to check the recurrence of such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):

(a) Yes Sir; the contractor is however liable for all costs, damages, demurrage, wharfage charges etc., incurred by the Food Corporation of India because of the default on the part of the contractor during the currency of the contract.

(b) The contractor or the agency undertaking the work at the risk and cost of the defaulting contractor is responsible for the losses on account of demurrage not attributable to the defaulting contractor.

(c) Every effort is made to ensure that the loading/unloading of wagons is carried out within the stipulated period.