

died of gas poisoning in a mine at Kangapur near Sen Raleigh Cycle Factory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes. The accident took place in Kangapur Colliery which was abandoned about 20 years ago.

(b) On 13-9-1969 three villagers went down a narrow opening in the old subsided and abandoned area to dig out coal illegally. The opening was full of black damp and the three villagers lost their lives.

Fall in Consumption of Fertilizers

616. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI S. R. DAMANI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumption of fertiliser has fallen considerably in the recent months ;

(b) whether this fall in consumption will adversely affect the production targets of foodgrains ; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the fall in the fertilizers consumption and the reactions of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The consumption in this year's kharif season has increased over that in the previous kharif season according to the estimates of the State Governments. The rate of growth in consumption of fertilisers, however, has been lower than planned. The Government are seized of the problem and taking suitable steps to step up consumption of fertilisers.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Setting up of Agricultural Commission

617. SHRI N. K. SOMANI :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken

any decision to set up an Agricultural Commission ;

(b) if so, the composition and the terms of reference of the Commission ; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission will consist of one Chairman and one Member-Secretary who will be full-time officers of the Commission, Besides, the above, there will be 12 other members, 5 of whom work full-time and the remaining 7 will work only part time. The terms of reference of the Commission are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2028/69.]

(c) The Commission is likely to be set up as soon as the selection of the members is finalised. This is under consideration of the Government.

Import of Tractors

618. SHRI TULSHIDAS JADHAV :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tractors imported during the financial year 1969-70 so far and their distribution among various States ;

(b) whether Government think that this number was sufficient to meet the demand of the farmers ;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to import more tractors ; and

(d) the number of tractors which Government propose to import during the remaining period of the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (d). 15,500 tractors had been agreed to be imported against the requirements for 1968-69. Of these, 8,000 tractors have since arrived in the country

and the balance are expected by the end of the current financial year, 1969-70. A statement showing distribution of these tractors to various States is appended. Considering the increased requirement of tractors during 1969-70, it has been decided to import substantially a larger number of (35,000) tractors. The allocation of these tractors to various States will be made as soon as the import programme is finalised. The import is not sufficient to meet the overall requirement of tractors in the country. However, owing to constraint of foreign exchange, it is not possible to arrange for still larger imports.

Statement

Name of State	No. of Tractors Allotted (1968-69)
1. Andhra Pradesh	1,930
2. Assam	175
3. Bihar	1,445
4. Gujarat	850
5. Haryana	1,010
6. Jammu and Kashmir	165
7. Kerala	400
8. Madhya Pradesh	825
9. Maharashtra	1,190
10. Tamil Nadu	960
11. Mysore	825
12. Orissa	190
13. Punjab	1,650
14. Rajasthan	900
15. Uttar Pradesh	2,035
16. West Bengal	300
17. Nagaland	12
18. Union Territories	280
19. Misc. Allotments	3
20. Reserve	355
Total	15,500

**Opinion of Attorney General on
Nationalisation of Sugar Mills**

619. SHRI BAIDHAR BEHERA :
SHRI J. AHMED :
SHRI RAM KISHAN
GUPTA :
SHRI S. KUNDU :

SHRI CHANDRIKA
PRASAD :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI S. M KRISHNA :
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sought the opinion of the Attorney-General in regard to the nationalisation of Sugar Industry ;

(b) if so, whether the Attorney-General has given his opinion ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No reference has been made so far to the Attorney-General.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Paid Holiday for P and T Employees on
the Death of Dr. Zakir Hussain**

620. SHRI BAIDHAR BEHERA :
SHRI LAKHAN LAL
KAPOOR :
SHRI S. KUNDU :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government employees were given three days paid holidays on the observance of the death mourning of the late President Dr. Zakir Hussain ;

(b) if so, whether these paid holidays were also made available to all the sections of the Posts and Telegraph Department ;

(c) whether the R.M.S. wing of Katihar (Bihar) was excluded from this facility ; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No. They were given benefits of these holidays as per existing rules.

(d) Question does not arise.