

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Committee to review cooperative laws

*314. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI DEEN BANDHU
VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Committee to review the cooperative laws and their administration in the country; and

(b) if so, steps already initiated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b). No, Sir. However, a recommendation regarding the constitution of a Committee to review cooperative laws and administration has been made by the Conference of Registrars of Cooperative Societies held in February, 1983. The recommendations of the Conference will, in the first instance, be considered by the Conference of State Ministers of Cooperation.

Shortfall in Construction of Godowns*316. SHRI ANANTHARAMULU
MALLU:

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been shortfall in the construction of warehouses for storing the procured foodgrains;

(b) if so, what is the capacity available and how much quantity is in stock and the details regarding the quantity of foodgrains procured this year;

(c) whether proper arrangements have been made to store the procured foodgrains at safe places so that they are not exposed to rain;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) what is the average quantity damaged due to rain and faulty storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) The total capacity, constructed and hired taken together, with the Food Corporation of India for storage of foodgrains is considered adequate for current stock levels.

(b) The total covered capacity available with Food Corporation of India for foodgrain storage is 15.73 million tonnes. The stock held by the Corporation as on 1-2-1983 is 9.57 million tonnes. The total quantity procured in the country, during 1982-83 marketing year is 13.86 million tonnes. 7.72 million tonnes of wheat, 5.98 million tonnes of rice and 0.16 million tonnes of coarse grains.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. By and large, foodgrain stocks are kept in scientifically built godowns. Per-monsoon inspection/repairs of godowns, periodic inspection/disinfestation of stocks by qualified staff are carried out. Only small quantities of foodgrains are kept under cover-and-plinth (CAP) storage due to local constraints and to meet peak level needs. Necessary precautions are taken to protect the stocks against rain, cyclone, etc.

(e) It is the stock under CAP storage that is susceptible to damage on account of rain, cyclone and other natural causes. The average quantity damaged mainly on account of these factors during the last three years comes to about 43,000 tonnes.