

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : I do not think it is lack of communications that is responsible for it. What is responsible is lack of availability of wagons which is due to the very difficult law and order situation that we are facing due to theft of overhead wires etc., which have been listed in the main answer, in the Calcutta-Kharagpur and Calcutta-Asansol areas.

SHRI D.K. PANDA : We want to get an assurance from the hon. Minister that within a specific time some action will be taken because the crisis started since November 1970. It is a matter of arranging 600 Railway wagons to lift the stock which would avert the threatened retrenchment of 15,000 workmen.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please. Members should not speak unless they are called. There are some Members who do not get even one chance while others want more than one chance. They must wait for their next chance.

Setting up of Zonal Research Centres for Improved Agricultural machinery and Implements by Indian Council of Agricultural Research

*243. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has formulated a scheme for the establishment of two zonal Research Centres for improved agricultural machinery and implements;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE : (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The full scheme will cost Rs. 31.04 lakh upto the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Two research and testing centres in Agriculture Engineering at I.A.R.I. and Coimbatore are being strengthened under a coordinated research scheme, with the main objective of providing facilities for designing, developing and testing agricultural machinery and implements suitable for the important crops and multiple cropping complex of the region concerned.

The detailed objectives of these centres are :—

1. Development of urgently needed simple implements to the needs of high yielding and multiple cropping programme, and the dry farming areas and to make suitable prototypes and have them evaluated at selected Centres.

2. To intensively test the prototypes already evolved at Research Testing Centres under actual dry and irrigated farming conditions and also others entered under prize award schemes sponsored by I.C.A.R. at selected centres and coordinate the test.

3. To carry out field research studies on selected imported equipment, modify the same if necessary to suit local needs, and organise prototype production and trials.

The scheme will be coordinated by a research engineer in the grade of Rs. 1300-1600 from I.A.R.I.

Necessary additional equipment, staff and laboratory facilities have been sanctioned for both the centres viz. I.A.R.I., New Delhi and Agricultural University, Coimbatore.