

Association launched a Satyagraha before the office of General Superintendent in the first week of July, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for this Satyagraha ; and

(c) whether their demands have been fulfilled ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMAR MANGHLAM) : (a) Yes, Sir Some of the officers of the Durgapur Steel Plant with the backing of their Association launched a satyagraha from 5-7-71. It has since been called off from the night of 20-7-71.

(b) Non-executives promoted as executives in Hindustan Steel Limited are required to undergo training and pass an examination in order to be eligible for their annual increments and for confirmation. Such officers as had not passed the examination were not allowed increments. These officers were pressing for payment of increments and for confirmation as executives without training or examination.

(c) No, Sir.

Purchase of Tent Poles by D.G.S. & D.

***1605. DR. KARNI SINGH :
RAJMATA KRISHNA :
KUMARI JODHPUR :**

Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General, Supplies and Disposals, through contracts placed in December, 1969 on several firms, had purchased the cancelled quantities of tent poles ;

(b) whether payment for the poles had been made at a much higher price than the original rate contract ;

(c) if so, the reasons for purchasing the rejected stuff at a price much higher than the contract price ;

(d) the total loss suffered by Government ; and

(e) the action taken against the persons responsible for this ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, except in one case where the purchase was effected at a slightly lower rate ;

(c) The Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals do not purchase rejected stores and tenders are always invited and orders placed for stores conforming to prescribed specifications. It appears, however, that certain sub-standard poles were passed/accepted by the Inspectorate and consignee. The CBI are seized of the matter. The orders in this case were placed at the lowest acceptable rates obtained by tender. In seven cases the price so obtained was higher and in the eight case lower than the original contracted rates.

(d) The total extra expenditure in the purchase of stores including the element of sales tax works out to about Rs. 6.97 lakhs.

(e) The matter is under examination.

Strike by Employers of Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., Jaduguda

***1606. SHRI N. E. HORO :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, have gone on strike with effect from the 5th July, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for going on strike; and

(c) whether the management of the said Corporation have violated the recruitment terms detrimental to the interest of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

Research on Paddy Cultivation under Saline Water

***1607. SHRI MADHURRYA HALDAR :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are carrying any research on paddy cultivation under Saline Water ; and

(b) if so, the progress thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Research is in progress in paddy-cultivation under saline soil and saline water conditions at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal and its centre at Canning Town District 24 Parganas, West Bedgal and at Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, financed by I.C.A.R.

(b) Satisfactory progress has been made at these research centres in field of breeding rice varieties suitable for saline soil conditions. The success achieved so far indicated that rice varieties viz. Getu, Dasal, Damodar. C. Ac. 75, C. Ac. 125, C. Ac. 334 and SR 26B (Canning Town, West Bengal) IR8-68 (Karnal) possess considerable degree of tolerance to saline conditions. A technique of leaching the salts and growing paddy after application of gypsum and green manuring with Dhaincha has been evolved at the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal for successful cultivation of rice on saline-alkali soils which are of common occurrence in North India and elsewhere.

Agro-Service Centres in U. P. and Bihar

*1608 SHRI RAJDEO SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether to implement the Agro-Service Centre Scheme in order to absorb or provide employment opportunities to unemployed technical personnel a provision of Rs. 3 crores has been made in the Fourth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, how many Agro-Service Centres have come up in the predominantly agricultural States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The Ministry of Industrial Development (Udyog Vikas Mantralaya) has formulated a scheme "Training of and Assistance to Engineer Entrepreneurs", for which a provision of Rs. 3 crores has been made by that Ministry. Agro-Service Centres that would be established by unemployed engineers and other technically qualified persons, would be eligible for assistance under the above

scheme. The State Governments have been requested to take urgent steps in implementing the scheme.

23 unemployed engineers have been trained in Bihar ; of these 12 have been assisted in securing loans and have been given priority in the allotment of imported tractors as well as spare parts and implements, to help them establish Agro Service Centres. In U. P., at present 13 unemployed engineers are undergoing training, after which the State Agro-Industries Corporation will assist them in setting up Agro-Service Centres.

Expenditure on imported Holstein Friesian heifers

*1609. SHRI B. S. BHAURA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether no steps have yet been taken to implement the Punjab Government's plan for utilising precious herd of imported Holstein Friesian heifers ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay ; and

(c) the expenditure so far incurred by the State Government on these heifers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Punjab Government are taking necessary steps to utilize according to their Plan, the herd of Holstein Friesian heifers, imported by them in September/October, 1970.

(b) The Punjab Government have stated that there has been no delay in this regard.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 5,67,767.00 (including Rs. 5,04,000.00 as transportation charges) has so far been incurred by the Punjab Government on these heifers.

Nationalisation of Coal Mines

*1610. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Government has made any proposal to nationalise the coal mines ;

(b) whether and study was conducted by the Finance Ministry in this regard ; and