

Representation from Punjab M.P's. for Introduction of Uniform Land Laws and Speedy Implementation of Land Reforms

*1619. SHRI TEJA SINGH SWATANTRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Members of Parliament from Punjab have recently represented to the Central Government for bringing a Bill/ Ordinance to introduce uniform land laws and to speedily implement the land reform policy of the Central Government ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The Government of India has examined the land reform laws of Punjab with a view to effect necessary amendments during President's Rule. In this connection a Memorandum has also been received from ten members of Parliament belonging to Punjab. The matter is receiving the active consideration of the Government.

Responsibility for Damage of Foodgrains due to Untimely Rains during Procurement Drive

*1620. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any responsibility has been placed for the damage caused to foodgrains during procurement drive due to untimely rains ; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) Owing to untimely rains in certain part of Northern India in the months of April and May damage was caused to grains either awaiting thrashing or on the thrashing floor of the farmers. Prompt measures were undertaken by Government for procuring such grains with relaxed specifications. Measures were also taken to protect grain procured by providing dunnage and tarpaulin. Consequently, there has been no significant loss to the procured grain. The question of placing responsibility for any lapse therefore, does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

Extraction of Coal from Pather Khera Coal Fields by National Coal Development Corporation

7010. SHRI G. C. DIXIT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal from Patherkhera coal-fields in Madhya Pradesh is being extracted for the sole use of Sarai Power Station by the National Coal Development Corporation ;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the National Coal Development Corporation has so far failed to meet the requirements of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board resulting in generation of much lesser energy than the sets are capable of ;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh Government have requested Government of India for transfer of this captive mine to State Government ; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far and the time by which the final decision is expected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The coal from Patherkhera coal-fields in Madhya Pradesh is being extracted by the National Coal Development Corporation for the use of the Satpura Thermal Power Station located in Sarni village of Betul District in Madhya Pradesh.

The Corporation is making every effort including development of another mine, known as Patherkhera expansion, to supply adequate quantity of coal to the power station. The station is operating in accordance with the system load condition for which necessary coal is being obtained from the Patherkhera mine of National Coal Development Corporation and from the Pench Valley coal-fields.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter is under consideration and a decision is likely to be taken shortly.

Graduates and Post-Graduates in Agriculture in Punjab

7011. SHRI TEJA SINGH SWATANTRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Agriculture Graduates