

Planning Unit' of the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, in 1969, the requirements for Agricultural Engineering Graduates for the five-year period of 1969-1973 were reported to be 610, i. e. an annual requirement of 122.

The average annual output of Agricultural Engineering Graduates in recent years works out to about 263.

(b) No.

(c) The "Green Revolution" has, no doubt, resulted in increased production but it has not generated so far enough job opportunities for Agricultural Engineers. As farm incomes go up as a result of the green revolution, mechanisation of farm operations, rural electrification and agro-processing industry picks up, more and more jobs for Agricultural Engineers are likely to become available. Absence of self-employment opportunities, limited demand of private sector, lack of credit facilities as well as insufficient orientation of education programmes to create self-employment potential in Agricultural Engineering Graduates are some of the other reasons for their unemployment.

Influx of Bangla Desh Refugees

*1727. SHRI SAMAR GUIHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the latest figures of the influx of the refugees from Bangla Desh and its break-up State-wise ;

(b) the expected influx of Bangla Desh refugees and the reasons for that ;

(c) whether Government have succeeded to provide all refugees shelters from monsoon ; and

(d) the reaction of Government to Pakistani claim to the effect that refugees are going back to Bangla Desh in large number ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) As on 10.8.1971, 75,13,776 refugees from East Bengal have crossed over to India. Their State-wise break-up is as follows :

West Bengal :	56,73,178 refugees upto 7.8.1971
Assam :	2,42,025 refugees upto 1.8.1971
Meghalaya :	3,27,508 refugees upto 1.8.1971
Tripura :	12,62,158 refugees upto 7.8.1971
Bihar :	8,907 refugees upto 1.8.1971

(b) As the situation continues to remain fluid, no precise forecast is possible. The influx is however, expected to reach the 10 million mark.

(c) In view of the continued influx and magnitude of the problem it has not been possible to provide immediate shelter to all the refugees who have come, although arrangements have been made to cover all of them.

(d) This is a mere Pakistani propaganda. The fact that the influx of refugees continues at the rate of 45,000 persons per day shows that the brutalities continue in East Bengal preventing refugees from going back.

Factories, Textile Mills and Collieries Closed in West Bengal

*1728. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether large number of factories, textile mills and collieries were under closure in West Bengal ;

(b) the estimated number of unemployed workers in West Bengal ;

(c) whether most of the management people have not turned up at arbitration when called by the Labour Department ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to re-open these closed factories ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) : Yes.

(b) According to the available information the number of job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges in West Bengal was 6,85,501 as on May 31, 1971.

(c) Information available in the Ministry of Labour does not indicate this.

(d) Closures may be due to a number of factors including labour trouble. In cases of closures due to labour trouble, the State Conciliation Machinery has been making efforts to secure re-opening of the closed units by persuasion. According to the information made available by the Government of West Bengal, of the 221 factories and establishments which had closed down between March 20 and De-

ember 31, 1970, 33 units subsequently reopened following efforts by the State Conciliation Machinery. In cases of closure due to shortage of raw material, Government issue where necessary, advance import licences. As for closures due to mismanagement, necessary action is taken by Government where called for under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act.

Research by I. C. A. R. in Evolving Wheat and Maize of high Protein Content

*1729. SHRI PILOO MODY :
SHRI C. CHITTABABU :
SHRI VIKRAMCHAND
MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement by the Association of Scientific Workers of India questioning the 'tall claims' made by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute regarding its research achievements, particularly in evolving wheat and maize of a high protein content ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) A pamphlet entitled 'Young Scientist' stated on its cover page to be the official publication of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute Branch of the Association of Scientific Workers of India had been issued bearing the date 1. 6. 1971. This pamphlet carried an unsigned article entitled 'Agricultural Research-Claims versus Realities' casting doubts on the contributions made by agricultural scientists in general and on a few items of research carried out at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

(b) A statement is placed on the table of the House. The Government, therefore, considers that the publication of a pamphlet in an unscientific manner was not the proper form of expression of the views and it was not based on facts.

Statement

The President of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute Branch of the Association of Scientific Workers of India issued on behalf of the Association a statement published in '*Times of India*' that he had no knowledge of the publication of the pamphlet. He is conducting an enquiry into how and by whom this pamphlet was published. The Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, discussed the points made in the article in the All Institute Scientific Staff Meeting on 17th July, 1971 which was attended by 500 scientists. The manner in which controversy was raised and its being without any basis was severely criticised in the meeting by the scientists themselves. None of the office-bearers of the Association asked any question or presented any data on which their views were based. The Secretary of the Association spoke that his aim was only to provoke a 'Healthy controversy.' The entire scientific community including the post-graduate students was upset over the report and both the Pusa Research Society and the Post-Graduate Students' Union passed unanimous resolutions deploring such unscientific activity on the part of a few staff members. The Director clarified the issue in '*Times of India*' of 20.7.71. The leading newspapers have regretted the unscientific manner in which the controversy was raised.

E. P. F. Dues with Edward Textile Mills, Bombay

*1730. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the management of closed Edward Textile Mills, Bombay had not yet paid lakhs of rupees of Provident Fund dues to the workers ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to pay the same to the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and not the direct concern of the Central Government. The Provident Fund authorities have reported as under :