54

Written Answers

(c). Because of inadequate availability of covered wagons, loading of wheat in open wagons to some extent becomes inescapable as it is necessary to maximise the movement of procured stocks. However, when loading is done in open wagons special measures like covering the bags of grains with tarpaulins, provision of escorts etc., are taken to prevent damage to foodgrains.

Damage of Wheat in Haryana due to Non-Availability of Transport **Facilities**

*1168. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: SHRIN, N. PANDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press news to the effect that about four lakh tonnes of wheat, out of nearly seven lakh tonnes procured so far, in Haryana is lying in the open exposed to the vagaries of the weather;
- (b) whether the Centre was acquainted with the situation and was also requested to move out these stocks to avoid damage;
- (c) whether the Railway authorities had asked the Haryana authorities first to move these stocks to the Jagadhri section from where the railway could export them to the recipient States;

- (d) whether this would involve unnecessarily big expenditure and entail avoidable delay and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto and the measures adopted to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) A quantity of 6,92,324 tonnes wheat has been procured in Haryana upto 5-7-1971, out of which a quantity of about 2,47,000 tonnes is stored in the open. All necessary precautions have been taken by the State Government and the Food Corporation to ensure that the stocks stored temporarily in the open are properly covered to avoid damage to them.

- (b) The Central Government is aware of the situation. The Food Corporation and the Railway in consultation with the Government of Haryana are making efforts to move out such stocks as are stored in the open.
- (c) and (d). During the peak procurement season massive movement has to be arranged for and this can be done only by running specials from stations where facilities exist to load these specials. Suitable stations were selected in consultation with Northern Railway, Haryana Government and the Food Corporation of India. Jagadhri is one of the 32 stations agreed to for loading of specials. Only grain within reasonable distance of Jagadhrı station is expected to be moved there for loading into the specials and not all the grain lying in the open in Haryana. It is no doubt true that in moving the wheat to one particular station some additional expenditure on road transport will be incurred. But this has got to be weighed against the speedier movement ensured by loading of specials which is possible only at selected stations. Delay in movement is avoided by the loading of specials and in the interest of quicker

movement it is considered that some additional expenditure on road movement to the selected stations is wortwhile.

(e) Does not arise.

Resentment by States for Assigning Agricultural Research Work to Agricultural Universities

*1169. SHRI A. N. CHAWLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

- (a) whether certain State Governments have resented to assigning the work of agricultural reasearch to Agricultural Universities;
- (b) whether this move of the State Governments has resulted in the wastage of funds and man-power;
- (c) if so, the State Governments which have resented this proposal; and
- (d) the specific steps Government propose to take in this direction so that the work of agricultural research could be done smoothly and for mass benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). The Agricultural Universities should normally have state-wide responsibility of agricultural teaching, research and extension education. Certain State Governments have not, however, transferred the whole of agricultural research to the Agricultural Universities, although there is a definite provision in the University Act to this effect. In some cases, where phased transfer has been agreed to, the process has been rather long drawn. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, therefore, has been urging these States to expedite the transfer which in some cases has been exsented to. Wherever state-wide research has not been transferred to the Agricultural Universities, there has been wasteful duplication and lack of coordination between the work of the University and the State Departments concerned. This duplication is resulting in certain wastage of funds and is not conducive to the efficient utilisation of trained man-power available in the State as a whole.

The Acts of Assam Agricultural University and Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology have provisions for transfer of State-wide research to the Agricultural Universities. The State of Rajasthan have also agreed to transfer of State-wide agricultural research to the University of Udaipur in a phased manner. The process of transfer has not been completed although the last two Agricultural Universities have been in existence for the last eight years.

(d). The Indian Council of Agricultural Research would continue to pursue this matter with the State Governments for speedy implementation of the relevant provisions of the University Acts. The I.C.A.R. would also continue to give preference to Agricultural Universities over Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry for the location of the centres of All-India Coordinated Research Projects provided they fulfil all other eligibility requirements. Likewise, I.C.A.R. will continue to offer necessary incentives through grant-in-aids to the States for the development of Agricultural Universities to expedite the transfer. If these do not have their desired effect, Government would consider what further measures will be necessary in order to smoothen matters and get maximum benefits out of the resources invested without wasteful duplication.

Casualties in Rourkela Steel Plant

*1170. SHRI R. V. BADÉ : DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND