

Department keep in touch with the State Governments, to see that there is no avoidable delay in the rehabilitation of repatriates.

Implementation of decisions of Industrial Committee on Plantation

*565. SHRI J. M. GOWDER: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the unanimous decisions of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held in Delhi in July, 1970 have been implemented ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce necessary amendments to the Plantation Labour Act, in view of the decision of the Industrial Committee on Plantation ; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to implement the principle "equal wage for equal value of work" in the Plantation Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). Proposals for amendments wherever necessary to the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, in the light of the conclusions of the meeting of the Industrial Committee on Plantations, are under consideration.

(c) In view of the provisions of the Constitution of the India prohibiting discrimination on the basis, *inter alia* of sex and of the I. L. O. Convention concerning Equal Remuneration, which has been ratified by Government of India, the question of formulating any fresh proposal for applying the principle of equal remuneration in the Plantation Industry as such does not arise.

Formulation of a Committee in Rourkela Steel Plant

*566. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN : Will the Minister of STEEL

AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee was formed to find out the reasons for slow progress of steel production in Rourkela Steel Plant ;

(b) if so, its main findings ; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Committee on Automation

*567. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee on Automation is functioning ; if so, the progress in its work and when it is likely to submit its report ;

(b) if not, the steps Government intend to take for an agreeable public policy on the introduction and extension of Automation/Computerisation in private and public sector organisations and services ; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the conclusions and recommendations of the National Labour Commission on the question of automation and its labour problems ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION ((SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The Committee has completed collection of information including according of oral evidence, analysis of replies to the questionnaire, and case studies of selected industrial establishments. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are awaiting the report of the Committee on Automation, before

finalising action on the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour in this regard.

Enforcement of ban on hunting of Tigers and Leopards

*568. SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH—KOTAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that despite the ban on hunting of tigers and leopards there is still large such poaching going on ;

(b) whether Government know who such poachers are ;

(c) what Government propose to do in enforcing the ban and see that the game is not poisoned by the locals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). Informations is being collected from the concerned State Government and will be laid on the table of the Sabha in due course.

Supply of Sub-Standard Hybrid Variety of Seeds by National Seeds Corporation

*569. SHRI K. C. PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government for supply of sub-standard hybrid varieties of seeds by National Seeds Corporation to the farmers ;

(b) if so, whether the complaints have been enquired into and if so, with what results ; and

(c) the procedure for certification and purchase of quality hybrid seeds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes Sir. Complaints have occasionally been received by the Government and also by the National Seeds Corporation.

(b) All the complaints have been enquired into. Generally speaking where enquiry reveals that the quality of seeds supplied is defective, replacement of seed is made free of cost by the Corporation or cost of seed is refunded. Generally investigations have shown that poor performance of the seed supplied is due to improper storage, non-adoption of the prescribed agricultural practices, failure to take prompt plant protection measures and adverse weather conditions.

(c) The National Seeds Corporation has a definite set of procedures for both certification and procurement of seeds. Certification requires conformity of the seed crop to a set of norms relating to varietal purity, freedom from diseases etc. and only those seed crops which are verified on inspection to conform to the prescribed certification standards, are permitted for harvest for seed purposes. Seed from such fields is processed, treated, tagged and sealed before procurement.

Procurement Price of Paddy in Assam

*570. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement price of paddy offered by the Food Corporation of India ;

(b) whether the price is uniform throughout the country ; if not, the reason thereof ;

(c) whether the price offered by the Food Corporation of India is related to the price index of consumer goods or based on production cost ;

(d) the procurement price of paddy per quintal and overhead charges per quintal by the Food Corporation of India in Assam ; and

(e) the margin between procuring price and selling of price of paddy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The Food Corporation of India is purchasing paddy