

(c) whether Government have thought of the possibility of the entire bird life being destroyed by such a measure in addition to the danger to human life;

(d) whether Government propose to do intensive research in this field in regard to the lethal effect of these poisonous chemicals on man, bird and animals, before using these chemicals on foodgrains; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir. To scare away sparrows and other birds, mechanical devices are used in go downs. Even when the crop is standing, chemicals are not used for the purpose and mechanical devices are adopted.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Cotton Production

***1215. Shri Parthasarathy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cotton acreage in India is the largest in the world and the total yield is the lowest; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the average yield to favourably compare with U.S.A. and other countries where average yield per acre is 480 lbs?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes.

(b) Specific schemes under which package of practices are adopted are being implemented in all the major cotton growing States to increase the yield per acre. The required inputs viz. improved seeds and fertilisers are being specifically made available to these areas. Plant Protection measures on a mass scale, including aerial spraying on larger areas are being

organised. Improved methods of cultivation are being popularised in the various States.

Air-India

***1216. Shri Bedabrata Barua:**
Shri N. K. Sanghi;
Shri Y. A. Prasad:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's attitude towards the recent Arab-Israeli conflict has adversely affected Air-India's world-wide business; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) There have been some cancellations of Air India bookings on account of the West Asia conflict particularly in the USA and Europe. At this stage it is not possible to assess the extent to which Air India's world-wide business has been adversely affected.

(b) Air India has taken normal field sales action.

Ban on Export of Foodgrains from Haryana

***1217. Shri Kameshwar Singh:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haryana Government have decided to ban export of Foodgrains to other States; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to fulfil the foodgrains purchases by other States which were getting them from Haryana?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Export of rice, wheat gram and maize from Haryana stands restricted under the zonal orders issued by the Central Government. Haryana and Delhi however form a common zone for the purpose.