

(b) and (c) The new agricultural strategy developed under the Fourth Plan aims at attaining self-sufficiency in food by the end of 1970-71. An important element of this strategy is the introduction of the High-yielding Varieties Programme over fairly large areas in the country from the beginning of 1966-67. It is planned to bring a total area of 32.5 million acres under the cultivation of the high-yielding varieties of foodgrains by the end of the Fourth Plan period i.e. by 1970-71. This comprises 12.50 million acres under paddy, 8.00 million acres under wheat and 4.00 million acres each under maize jowar and bajra. This area is expected to give an additional production of foodgrains to the tune of about 18.8 million tonnes out of the total target of additional production of 30 million tonnes envisaged for the Fourth Five Year Plan.

The High Yielding Varieties Programme was launched in the field from the kharif season of 1966-67. This programme is being fully supported with supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and credit. So far as seeds is concerned, State Governments have made their own arrangements from 1967-68 for production of seeds to meet their requirements. Allocations of nitrogenous fertilisers are made from the Central Pool to meet the full requirements of the programme. The credit needs are being met through the co-operatives and takavi loans by the State Governments. Arrangements have also been made to impart intensive training to the staff as well as farmers at all levels.

Merger of Central Warehousing Corporation with Food Corporation

*1221. **Shri George Fernandes:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri A. Sreedharan:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to merge the Central Warehousing Corporation with the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the jobs of the employees of the Central Warehousing Corporation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) to (c). The question whether the Central Warehousing Corporation should continue as at present or whether its functions, in full or part, should be transferred to any other organisation is still under the consideration of the Government.

Air-India Pilots' Strike

*1222. **Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:** Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4 days strike of the Pilots of Air-India has caused a loss of about Rs. 40 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the National Industrial Tribunal had announced its Award;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government did not foresee the legal implications of the Award of the National Industrial Tribunal which caused a great loss; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking any action against the Officers who misled the Government on this issue?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) The estimated net loss suffered by Air-India during the four days of strike was Rs. 28.80 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) It was not a question of foreseeing the implications of the award of the Tribunal, or of anyone misleading Government in this respect. The difference arose on the interpretation of the Tribunal's award in regard to the differential in pay between the Air-India pilots and IAC pilots. As the views of the Air-India pilots affected the interests of the IAC pilots also, it was necessary to