

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to stop the wage cut offensive of the mill owners?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI): (a) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

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

RETRENCHMENT IN I.C.A.R.

*487. **SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:**
SHRI GANESH GHOSH :
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:
SHRI UMANATH:

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 30,000 employees including scientists working in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research will be retrenched from the 1st April, 1968;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide alternative jobs to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) (a) No, Sir.

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

MODERNISATION OF RICE MILLS

*488. **SHRI RABI RAY:** Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to prefer public sector undertakings and registered co-operative societies exclusively of farmers in granting permits for setting up rice mills and further to declare defunct any rice mill not operating for more than a year;

(b) if so, how many rice mills which are at present using outmoded machinery;

(c) the steps which Government have taken to modernize them; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. A Bill to amend the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 in this connection has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 13th February, 1968 and is awaiting consideration in by the Lok Sabha.

(b) Precise figures are not available. But it is estimated that about ninety percent of the rice mills at present are of the huller type.

(c) and (d). As a first step towards modernization of rice mills in the country, the Government have set up seven modern rice mills in different intensive agricultural district programme areas for a pilot study and programme of evaluation. A tentative plan for setting up of new modern rice mills and also for improving the existing mills, by introducing modern techniques during the Fourth Plan has also been drawn up. These proposals are still under consideration. Arrangements have also been made to get these modern equipments fabricated indigenously for facilitating a rapid modernization programme.

The Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958 is being amended to take powers to incorporate conditions in the permits and licences to ensure that the rice mills both new and existing are equipped with modern machineries and use modern technology.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

*489. **SHRI JUGAL MONDAL :** Will the Minister of **LAW** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided about security deposits and other conditions for the election of President and Vice-President; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of Government.